SATURDAY 7 JUNE 1997

JOHN McCRIRICK Shouting the Derby odds



THE GREAT DIANA **FROCK** WATCH

Comment p21



crowded flows the Cam



WEATHER: Sunshine and showers

Victory of the lottery fat-cats

Steve Boggan

Lottery "fat cats" were celebrating victory over the Government last night after a deal was struck which allows them to keep all the bonuses that provoked last week's public outrage.

Following secret negotiations between Camelot, the lottery organiser, and the Department of National Heritage on Thursday, a deal yesterday was presented as a compromise verging on victory for the Government. However, closer examination revealed a climb-down by Chris Smith, the Sec-



Sir George Russeli: Summoned Photograph: Peter Macdiarmid

retary of State for National Heritage. Mr Smith had demanded the return of the bonuses of up to 90 per cent of salary paid to directors last year when Camelot's profits fell by 8.6 per cent and donations to good causes dropped from £1.4bn to £1.3bn. In fact, not a penny will be returned by the directors.

Under the deal, Camelot has agreed to hand over interest on unclaimed prizes to the good causes fund, and its directors have undertaken to make secret, personal voluntary payments into a charitable fund from a forthcoming "long-term bonus".

The repayable interest is currently about £6m and will amount to some £24m by 2001, when Camelot's licence expires. However, it had been the subject of negotiation for almost a year and most observers - and, sources say, Camelot directors - believed the com-pany would have to yield to demands to give it back sooner or later. It appears that the directors have simply used it as a bargaining chip in order

to keep their bonuses. A source involved in the negotiations

does the deal include an annual bonus of 43 per cent of salary to be paid this month. Neither will next year's annual bonus be included.

The only one included will be the final installment of a long-term bonus of 120 per cent of salary negotiated in 1994," said the source. "That amounts to 35 per cent of salary and it will be paid in October. [The directors] can choose to pay an amount from that. It will be voluntary and it will be one-off. I don't think anyone has thought about how much to pay yet."

The deal was struck on Thursday during a day of telephone conversa-tions between Hayden Phillips, Mr Smith's permanent secretary, and Tim Holley, Camelot's chief executive, after it had become clear to the Secretary of State for National Heritage that his insistence that Camelot's directors give their bonuses to charity had backfired. He had summoned Sir George Rus-

sell, the Camelot chairman, to his of-Monday to express l at the levels of directors' pay. Among the biggest earners, Mr Holley had been given £590,000 for 1996/97 - 50 per cent up on the previous year; David Rigg, communications chief, picked up £330,000 – 90 per cent up on the previous year; and Peter Murphy, finance director, got a 76 per cent pay increase to £361,000.

But Mr Smith soon realised that neither he nor Camelot's shareholders -Glech, Racal, De La Rue, Cadbury Schweppes and ICL - could force the directors to return bonuses paid legally as the result of proper contracts.

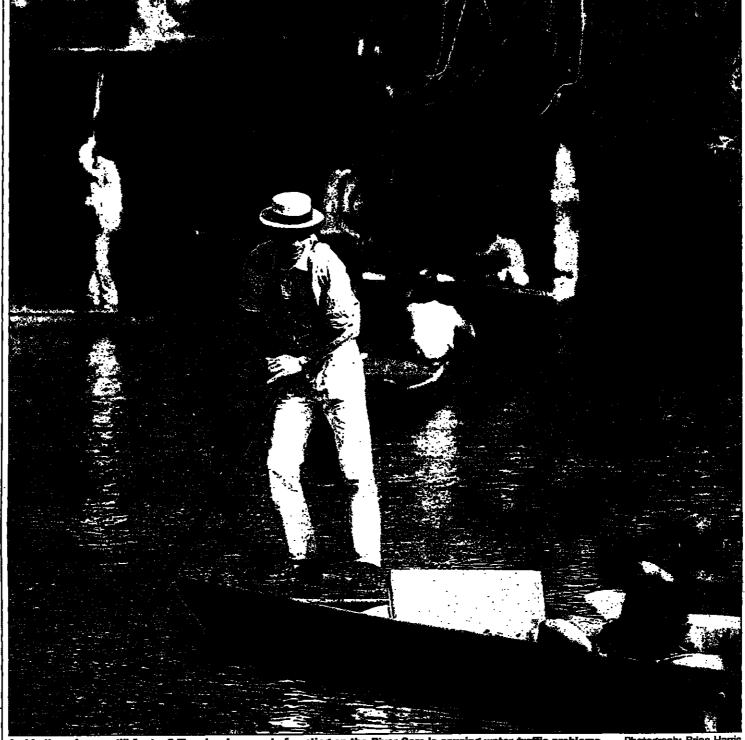
"It wasn't the money involved," one director told The Independent yesterday. "It was the principle. It could be £10 or £1m. You simply can't go around asking people to pay back their

The impression that Mr Smith had bitten off more than he could chew was reinforced when Mr Holley, Mr Rigg and Mr Murphy said they would resign over the matter. Finally, the secret talks were initiated on Thursday after Glech, Racal and De La Rue said they would pull out if Camelot were made into a "not-for-profit" organisation— the type of body Mr Smith wants Camelot to become. Both sides are to put forward proposals on that step by the end of July.

By the time Mr Hayden and Mr Holley had completed their talks on Thursday, Mr Smith was able to say that Camelot's directors were giving mon-ey from their bonuses to charity. And the directors were safe in the knowledge that they could keep the bonuses at the

centre of the controversy.

Leading article, page 19



And is there honey still for tea? The classic appeal of punting on the River Cam is causing water-traffic problems

Photograph: Brian Harris

An unusual kind of traffic congestion is stirring in the quieter backwaters of Cambridge.

The River Cam is in danger of becoming clogged by its famous punts, according to Pro-fessor Michael Chisholm, chairman of the Cam Conservators, the body responsible for regis tering boats on the river.

Unless the fast-growing num-ber of craft is stemmed, the millions of visitors who descend on the city each year may be put off taking the quintessentially Cambridge trip along the University Backs, he warned yesterday.

"If the numbers become significantly more than they are now then people may be turned off wanting to come on the Cam because it is just so crowded and unpleasant," said the retired Cambridge University geogra-phy lecturer. "That would be bad for the operators and bad for the city, which I think now attracts about 3 million visitors

There has been a big increase in river traffic in recent years as punting becomes increasingly popular among tourists. Around 300 punts now compete for trade and many are chauffeur punts which are twice the size of the original models.

Rod Ingersent, 29, manager of Cambridge Punting Company, which owns 150 punts, dismissed the problem. "Obviously we don't agree," he said. "I think punts have reached the ceiling in terms of the number there are going to be and it seems entirely manageable to us."

The annual licence fees, £153 for a six-passenger punt and double that for a chauffeur punt, are prohibitive, added Mr Ingersent, "It's very unlikely the numbers will go up because the fees are very high, the highest in the country.

Professor Chisholm's remarks come amid growing concern about rowdy behaviour on the river and growing competition between rival punt operators. There have been reports of heated arguments between the staff of rival punt firms touting for customers and police warn they will step in if disputes get out of hand.

Rates up by quarter point in Bank's first independent rise

Michael Harrison

The cost of home loans went up yesterday after the Bank of England increased interest rates to 6.5 per cent following the inaugural meeting of its monetary policy committee. At the end of the two-day meeting the seven-strong committee voted for a quarter-point rise in interest rates - the first time since 1945 that the cost of borrowing has been

changed without government instruction. The Halifax and the Abbey National immediately announced that they were increasing mortgage rates by 0.35 per cent. Other lenders are expected to follow suit. The increase takes the monthly cost of a £50,00 repay-

ment mortgage to £358.85 - a rise of £10.27. The repayment on a £100,000 loan rises by £21.78 to £740.87.

The Bank said it had raised rates because there was a need to keep inflation in check. Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank and chairman of the monetary policy committee, warned earlier this week of the inflationary effects of the £30bn building society windfalls.

This is the second quarter-point increase in base rates



since Labour came to power. Mr Brown first raised rates a month ago on the same day he announced the Bank's operational independence to set monetary policy. The consensus in the City was that the increase was sensible given the need to choke off the threat of higher inflation. But there was an angry reaction from industry, fearful that the rate rise will strengthen the pound further and harm export prospects.

Business, page 24

veniles unit, which have toilets

and basins. They are some-

times used by adults when the

unit is empty. Parents are al-

lowed to visit every day and the

children receive education and

recreation. The prison staff

who supervise them are given

governor, said: "There is a need

to put some children in secure

accommodation. It is how you

deal with them when they are

there that is important. We do

not have the resources to

Rosemary Crosby, the jail's

special training.

said that none of the bonuses paid last Girl of 12 thrown into jail on Isle of Man

etty simp lason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

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Mary Carlot of the

Mary Control of the C

A 12-year-old girl and a 15-yearold youth are being kept in a Victorian adult jail on the Isle of Man in a system that was condemned yesterday as "bar-

baric" The girl, who has not been convicted on any offence, is being housed in a cell in a special annexe of the prison inside the perimeter wall.

She is kept away from adult inmates but can mix with offenders aged up to 16.

She has been at the jail for modern, adult-style cells from four days on remand and will go before the court again on Wednesday where she could be sentenced to return to the prison. Until a few days ago a 14-year-old was also at the jail

awaiting trial, but has been released after his parents agreed to take care of him. A civil liberty group pledged yesterday to take the case to the United Nations Committee on

the Rights of the Child. The juveniles at Victoria about 8pm to 8am.

Under island laws, children as young as 10 can be detained in the island's only prison, which currently holds three youths aged under 17, two female adults and 88 male inmates.

The 12-year-old girl was sent to the prison last Wednesday. It is understood she is accused of assaulting social workers and damaging property.

The 15-year-old boy at the jail is understood to be serving a six-Road Prison in Douglas, the island's capital, are locked in theft.

In the United Kingdom, child should have a proper accomoffenders aged under 15 are modation." kept in local authority secure accommodation. Penal experts have warned of the dangers of mixing different age groups

and sexes and of keeping children in prisons. Terence McDonald, a Manx advocate, called yesterday for the island's government to establish separate secure accommodation for child criminals. "It is barbaric to lock up children in jail and place them

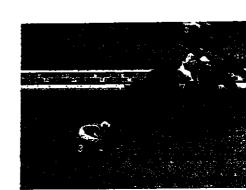
in cells," he said. We are rich society and

Bernard Moffatt, secretary of the Manx Council for Civil Liberty, said his organisation would appeal to the UN: "Locking children up in adult prisons is like something from the Dark Ages. It has got to end."

The Isle of Man has a reputation for retaining harsh, archaic laws. Homosexuality was illegal until 1992 and hanging was only abolished in 1993. In the same year the government voted to retain birching. There are five cells in the ju-

provide greater facilities." Home News2-12 Sport26-32 Books6-8

England hit out



WINNER BY A HEAD



WINNER BY A NECK

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Cowes Week	2-9 Aug



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CHAMPAGNE OF THE SEASON



significant shorts

Inquiry launched into prison strip-search of woman

An inquiry was launched yesterday after a woman prisoner was strip-searched by male prison officers after she threatened to kill herself, the Prison Service said.

The search, at Highpoint Prison, near Haverhill in Suffolk, was in contravention of Home Office policy which states that strip-searches should be carried out by officers the same sex as the inmate. The four officers believed to have taken part in the search have not been dismissed or suspended while the inquiry, headed by a governor from another prison and expected to take at least a week, is completed. The search took place on the evening of 2 June and revealed a small strip of metal which officers believed could have been used as a weerron. have been used as a weapon.

The investigation comes as it was announced that regular criminal checks may be introduced on staff at a secure mental hospital after it was discovered that a nurse carried on working with dangerous patients for two years after being convicted of importing pornography. William Baird was dismissed from Ashworth special hospital, Merseyside, whose most infamous inmate is the Moors murderer Ian Brady, two weeks ago. An immediate inquiry into the Personality Disorder Unit was ordered in February after allegations of paedophilia came to light along with claims that pornography, drugs and alcohol were widely available. The chief executive, a senior psychiatrist and two nurses were suspended. Neither the courts nor the police had informed hospital authorities about Mr Baird, who was suspended at the time on another matter. **Matthew Brace and Glenda Cooper**

Convent opts into state system

A Catholic girls' school is to become the first private school to opt

virgo Fidelis Convent School in Croydon, south London, will become a state school in August, and will open its doors to non-fee paying pupils for the first time in September. The school is one of 12 independent schools which made a bid to become state-funded under the Conventor. under the Conservative government but whose applications were held up by the general election campaign. One has been turned down and ten more await a decision. Sister Bernadette, headmistress at the convent school, said the school, which was founded 149 years ago by Irish nuns to educate children from the streets and workhouses, would now be better placed than ever to fulfil its mission of serving

The importance of being honest



A questionnaire completed and signed by the homosexual playwright Oscar Wilde in his student days, in which he claimed vanity, conceit and self-esteem as the traits he most detested in men and women, fetched £23,000 yesterday, ten times its estimated value, when a mystery telephone bidder bought the handwritten manuscript at Christie's in London.

The questionnaire was completed in 1877, when Wilde was unknown and studying at Oxford University, and is contained in a previously unheard-of two-page entry in Album for Confessions, or Tastes, Habits and Convictions, compiled by a contemporary. Wilde, who later rose to fame for works such as The Picture of Dorian Gray and The Importance of Being Earnest, put his full name Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde at the top of the 40-question sheet in the album. Asked what his aim in life was, Wilde replied: "Success, fame or even notoriety."

Dambuster prototypes recovered

Army engineers began a delicate operation yesterday to recover prototypes of Barnes Wallis's famous dambusting bouncing bombs from the Kent coast.

Five bombs have been discovered on the low tide mark at Reculver, near Herne Bay, where trials for the most famous airraid of the Second World War were held.

Specially-equipped Lancaster bombers of 617 Squadron under the command of Wing Commander Guy Gibson dropped the bombs to breach dams in Germany's industrial Ruhr, creating a flood that destroyed power supplies and disrupted war industries. The dambusters were immortalised in the eponymous 1954 film, starring Richard Todd and Michael Redgrave.

Land-speed record attempt stalled

Britain's attempt on the land speed record was stalled yesterday after the rear suspension of the Thrust SSC car was damaged during a 540 mph trial run. Although the driver, Andy Green, was unhurt, the team leader Richard Noble decided that they should return home from the trials in the Jordanian desert.

But although they did not achieve their test target of a 600mph desert run, the team members are confident that they can go for a record-breaking run of 750mph – breaking the sound barrier – in the US in September. Mr Noble is the current world record holder, having achieved 633mph in 1993 at Black Rock desert in Nevada, in the western US.

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Lana de Savary with her daughters Tara, Savannah and Amber. Her husband Peter, below, says he will not leave them or his two daughters by a previous marriage any money

De Savary disinherits his daughters

Deter de Savary, the property developer, has announced that he does not intend to leave his £24m fortune to his five children when he dies. The self-made multi-millionaire says he finds the sight of upper-class children squandering-inheritances they do not appreciate "shameful".

"The girls must achieve in their own lives whatev

er they can achieve." Mr de Savary said of his five daughters. They will not be given the responsibility and the awesome task of trying to preserve or augment or carry on any of my efforts."

His eldest daugitter, Lisa de Savary, 28, yesterday applauded her father's decision. "I think it's a good thing because you do see lots of people with trust funds who don't have the impetus to get off their backsides and do something." Miss de Savary, who works in public relations, added:

"At the end of the day achieving something by your-self and off your own back is far more satisfying than sitting back and living off someone else's money."

Besides Lisa, Mr de Savary has four other daugh-

ters: Nicola, 23, Tara, 10, Amber, IIII five. Nicola, a medical student at King's College London, teaches English as a foreign language in her holidays. Lisa said: "She got a TEFL qualification so that's what she's doing in her summer holidays."



Mr de Savary, the son of a French-born Essex farmer, tells a forthcoming ITV series on the British class system: "I have inherited nothing; I have won nothing. I have had to create whatever I have created from nothing and I believe in the words of Andrew Carnegie, which is to die rich is to die disgraced. So I'm not leaving castles and fortunes to my children."

He was kicked out of Charterhouse when he was 16 and by the age of 34 he was a multi-millionaire. Listed as the joint-733rd richest man in Britain, he once owned John O'Groats and Land's End and now runs the Skibo Castle hotel and golf course in Scotland. Miss de Savary emphasised that her father was a

"very generous" man. "Of course," she said. "He's put us all through good schools and universities ... He's ays there to held if we are in an impos tion ... Whatever he said in the TV programme I don't think it will come across as: 'I don't give my children a penny.' All he's really saying is he doesn't believe in giving children trust funds." Clare Garner

Struggling U2 fall victim to pop market forces

U2. the Irish rock band, may be regretting the giant fruit that graces the set of their current PopMart tour of the United States. It is a lemon and it may turn out to be an apt symbol of a four that appears to be struggling.

The evidence from ticket sales suggests that the band and its lead singer Bono, pictured, may not have the drawing power they once enjoyed. At least two concerts have been cancelled including one tonight in Philadelphia.

A three-night stretch in New York last weekend began well with a capacity crowd of 50,000 on Saturday. The lemon is part of a eyepopping set that includes a argantuan VideoWall and tower-

ing McDonalds-like golden arch. Even on that night, however, a few hapless touts were offloading tickets at half price. By Tuesday night the top tier of the Giant's stadium was mostly empty.

In other cities, it has looked even grimmer. The band played to only 27,000 on 1 May in a 60,000seat stadium in Denver. On their last US tour, they attracted 53,000 fans in Denver. Tour insiders also report disappointing merchandis-ing of PopMart paraphenalia.

Australian colleague.

The Saudi government has attacked media coverage

of the trial of the two nurses accused of murdering an

The Saudi Ambassador to Britain, Dr Ghazi Algosaibi,

He defended his country's legal system, which, he

The diplomat's attack followed a press conference

on Thursday in which the families of the two women

said new evidence cast doubt over alleged confessions,

Dr Algosaibi said: "It is entirely inappropriate for any-

one to make any public comment upon the trial of the

detendants until the proceedings have finally determined.

ministration of justice in Saudi Arabia, for the issues

in the case to be the subject of such ill-advised pub-

licity in the media, especially in the case which may

"It is for the court and the court alone, and not the

"It is extremely unfortunate indeed, to the due ad-

which the women have already retracted.

involve issues of life and death.

media to decide this case,"

said, would ensure a fair trial for Lucille McLauchlan,

31, and Deborah Parry, 38, accused of murdering col-league Yvonne Gilford last year.

said yesterday the approach of some British media to

the case had been "irresponsible" and "ill-advised".



that the tour, which will begin a British leg at Wembley on 22 August, is a flop. Arthur Fogel, president of the promoting company The Next Adventure, said: "When people see some shows fall short of sold out, all of a sudden they say the tour's in trouble. Nothing could be further from the truth." The explanation for tonight's

cancellation is that the gig would have clashed with a large Tibet Freedom concert in New York - at which U2 will briefly play. Another cancelled show, in Raleigh, North Carolina, was reportedly caused by damage done to the VideoWall by rain in a Washington DC. David Usborne , New York

Saudis attack British over trial coverage

over sport academy

Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, is facing a sporting challenge it will be hard for him to resist.

Banks on the spot

Mr Banks, an ardent Chelsea fan, has been challenged by a fellow Labour MP to a penalty shoot out at Wembley.

Alan Simpson offered Mr

Banks the best out of five penalties to decide whether the proposed Centre for Sporting Excellence is based in the Midlands or the South. However, Mr Banks, who is not noted for his footballing

prowess, may have second thoughts as Mr Simpson had trials for the England team when he was a schoolboy. Mr Simpson, the Labour MP for Nottingham South, fears that

the minister will allow the centre to be created "within a comfortable coach ride of Wembley". Insisting that it had to be based in the regions, Mr Simp-son said: "If it is not, it will be

perceived as yet another initiative driven by the narrow perceptions of the sporting establishment.' And he added: "The penalty

shoot out would be the best of five – the winner decides on what we do." Colin Brown

Comments by the nurses' lawyers about alleged mis-

The Foreign Office declined to comment on the Sau-

treatment of the pair while in jail are believed to have

di outburst but pointed out that throughout the case

the Saudis had co-operated with requests for consular

access to the women, and had allowed the vice-con-

Ms Parry, from Hampshire, and Ms McLauchlan, from Dundee, could face the death penalty if convicted of

the murder of Miss Gilford, 55, who was found beat-

en, stabbed and suffocated at the King Fahd military

medical complex in Dhahran where the women worked.

yesterday when it emerged that Frank Gilford, the mur-

dered woman's brother, said he might meet the nurs-

insist on the death penalty and has resisted the fami-

lies' pleas for mercy. But his lawyer, Jim Phipps, told

BBC Scotland that his client may have wavered in his

opposition to meeting the families. He said: "I think that

Frank, at the right time and in the right circumstances

Back in Saudi there was fresh hope for the nurses

Mr Gilford, 59, from Jamestown, South Australia, could

particularly antagonised the Saudis.

es' families to discuss the case.

might be inclined to meet them."

sul to attend the trial.

briefing

EDUCATION

Vocational A-levels 'fail to prepare students for work'

Vocational A-levels are failing in one of their main aims - the broad preparation of students for work, a study said yesterday. The report from London University's Institute of Education found that most students from General National Vocational Qualification (GNVQ) courses went into jobs unrelated to the subjects they had studied.

A high proportion of young people work in retailing or in hospitality and catering but very few choose relevant GNVQs. Over three-quarters of students are concentrated in four subjects, art and design, business, leisure and tourism, and health and social care. The report questions whether that was what the last Government's meant when it said that they should be "a broad." preparation for employment."

Professor Alison Wolf, who carried out the project, said the courses "represent a very small proportion of the country's

occupational map". Technical jobs are poorly represented.

The qualifications have also failed to achieve equal standing with A-levels – another objective. That is partly because old vocational qualifications persist so that the new courses have not become the main alternative to A-levels. Only a fifth of 16-year-olds takes them compared with the target of a quarter for 1996.

ENVIRONMENT

Solar power comes home Solar power is being used to

cut fuel bills for low-income families in an experiment set up by Greenpeace and a housing association. Three terrace houses in Silvertown in London's Docklands were chosen to

show that solar panels can generate electricity in ordinary homes, making a saving of £60 per household.

Although it is expensive to install the 10 panels needed for each house, Greenpeace is campaigning for grants to revolutionise the market. Marcus Rand, a Greenpeace campaigner, said: "We are calling on the Government to start a nation-wide solar programme immediately.

Just by re-directing the £17m currently spent on oil, coal and gas industries Britain could have a minimum of 50,000 solar homes by 2010. The Silvertown project shows it's possible."

George Barlow, chief executive of Peabody, one of London's largest housing associations, said: "We [this project] hope it will set in motion a new approach to the use of clean, renewable energy to reduce energy costs for people who most need affordable housing,".

HEALTH

More money for diabetes

Projects aimed at conquering diabetes are failing to get off the ground because of lack of funds, it was claimed yesterday.

The British Diabetic Association said more scientists than ever are applying for grants from its £4.5m research fund.

But the charity said that although some schemes could lead to a

cure for the condition, increasing numbers of worthwhile projects had to be turned down.

Professor Stephen Bloom, chairman of the charity's research committee, said: "Talk of prevention or a cure for diabetes is not a pipe dream. It could happen in our lifetimes with a continuing nvestment in diabetes research."

In order to increase the money available the charity will launch' an appeal at the start of National Diabetes Week tomorrow.

TRANSPORT

Top tips for greener driving

A leading driving school has offered a range of tips to motorists to help cut car pollution levels while staying behind the wheel. Responding to the Government's attempts to persuade the public to use their cars less and public transport more, BSM published advice to motorists to do their bit for the environment

The suggestions include keeping cars well maintained, avoiding carrying excess weight, switching off the engine in non-moving jams and avoiding excessive revving in low gears and keeping speeds consistent. Keith Cameron, the company's head of road safety policy, said: "A good driving technique can reduce fuel consumption by 25 per cent. A shift in attitude by motorists to how they drive and treat their car would not only produce greener drivers, but would also reduce accidents and help people save a lot of time and money."

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Yorkshire Bank Base Rate

Yorkshire Bank announces that with effect from start of business on 9th June 1997 its Base Rate is increasing

> from 6.25% to 6.50%.

Yorkshire Bank

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When cancer diagnosis goes wrong: one woman's horror story

Health Editor

The horrifying aftermath of a cancer misdiagnosis were described yesterday by a relative of a woman who died afer consultants failed to spot a breast lumour during screening.

Simonne Renvoize was misdiagnosed by Dr John Brennan in 1990, one of the two consultant radiologists whose work has been called in question in the current breast screening scare at the Royal Devon and Exeter hospital. Although her cancer was later detected by other doctors, she received inadequate treatment delivered too late, according to specialists who dealt with her case, and died a gruesome death in 1995.

It can never be proved that earlier treatment would have prolonged ther survival, but the knowledge that she had been misdiagnosed added greatly to her suffering, according to her cousin, Judith Barnes. "Simonne died knowing she could have had better treatment from the NHS in which she had had great faith. It shattered per trust in the health service as it did not all the family," she said.

On Thursday, the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS trust announced that Dr Brennan and fellow consultant radiologist Dr Graham Urquhart have been asked to undergo retraining after a review found decisions they had made led to delayed diagnosis of nine women with breast cancer. Mam- dent show that this is not the first time



to be re-examined to check for microcalcification - minute traces of calcium in the breast which can indicate that cancer is developing.

Angela Pedder, chief executive of the trust, said screening for breast cancer was not an exact science. "Any consultant in any specialty will on occasion miss something. The question is whether it is within the scope of normal practice - because no one is perfect - or whether it is outside normal practice. "Our review suggested that in

terms of the particular interpretation of microcalcification there seems to be a need for re-training of these consultants in this area." Documents seen by The Indepen-

been criticised. In April 1990, Simonne Renvoize, then aged 45, was referred to him at Treliske hospital, Cornwall, in April 1990, where he was then working, for breast screening after she had consulted her GP about lumps in both her breasts.

Dr Brennan told her that the lumps were not cancerous and were caused by hormonal problems and wrote in his report that there were "no suspicious features in either breast". Four months later she returned to her GP complaining the lumps were bigger. She was referred to a surgeon at the hospital. Breast cancer was diagnosed and she had a mastectomy in September 1990.

Because of further shortcomings in her treatment, the cancer in her oth-

following year and she had a second mastectomy in March 1991 - 11 months after it should have been

Simonne Renvoize (main picture) 'died knowing she could have had better treatment', according to her cousin, Judith Barnes (left)

Dissatisfied with her treatment, Ms Renvoize sought a second opinion from the Royal Marsden cancer hospital in London when the disease recurred in 1993. Ms Barnes said: "The specialist at the Marsden didn't hold out much hope. By 1994 she was told she wouldn't recover. The disease spread to her lungs and invaded her chest. The end was truly

A medico-legal report on the case by Graham Whitehouse, professor of diagnostic radiology at Liverpool University, in June 1994, criticised Dr mography films for 1,900 women are that Dr Brennan's judgement has er breast was not diagnosed until the mours on the original mammography

film. He wrote: "The carcinoma in the right [breast] should certainly have been observed by the radiologist ... I would have anticipated that a radiologist experienced in mammography would also have seen the left breast

Ms Renvoize had lived for 11 years in Australia, where she married a writer on a surfing magazine. After her marriage failed she returned to Newquay, Cornwall where she lived in a flat beneath her parents. When her cancer developed she became a campaigner for improved under-

standing of the disease. Ms Barnes said: "I don't think her an only daughter and they were very

possible chance. They knew women in Newquay who had got breast cancer and had poor treatment and died but who did not want to make

"Right to the end she kept her sense of humour and was very dignified but she was also very angry.

Before she died, Ms Renvoize wrote about her illness in the hope that her experience would serve as a warning to other women. She urged them to seek a second opinion and insist on treatment in specialist centres, not local hospitals.

She added: "We are referred to as cancer victims but are we victims of mother will ever get over it. She was an only daughter and they were very of my experience I ask whether the Brennan's failure to spot the tu- close. They both lived with a sense of NHS is failing British women. Someanger that Simonne didn't get the best thing is seriously wrong."



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Open house at the Globe but Glyndebourne it's not

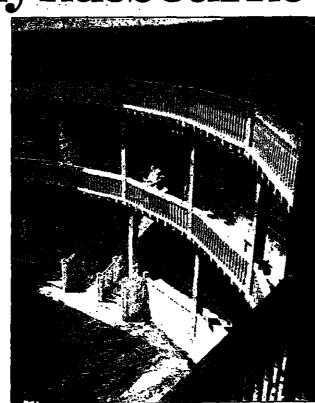
Janes (g. 1974) de rem sugrita e filia. Janes de regimento discolor de 1974 s summer, they're serving Moet et Chandon but it's not Givndebourne, After a dummy run last year, the late Sam Wanamaker's dream has come true and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre has been reconstructed and it's finally open for business.

The two productions chosen to open the season are The Win-स्तर्भक्षा स्थापित स्थापन स्तर्भक्षा होते. स्वराज्यात्र स्थापन स्तर्भक्षा स्थापन स्तर्भक्षा होते. ter's Tale, directed by David Freeman, and Henry V, directed by Richard Olivier, son of Sir Laurence Olivier who helped to found the National Theatre which has its home further along London's South Bank.

The second secon Debate has raged over the questionable authenticity of Wanamaker's plans to recreate an Elizabethan theatre on the site of Shakespeare's Playhouse. Nothing approaching a scale VDEPENDE

drawing of the original exists but principal architect, Theo Crosby, has drawn on years of theatre and building research, including details of the amounts of wood used to build similar 16th-century playhouses, and the result is a theatre unlike any other. Opponents have made loud

noises about "tourist traps" and JPPORT RECYCLA the amount of guesswork involved, but those working on the THE PARTY OF LA PERSON site are anxious to prove the project's credentials. Costume designer Jenny Tiramani has used a team of needleworkers to make costume items like copies of Elizabethan ruffs which she believes might have incorporated as many as 20 yards of fine hire Bank



Open season: The sun shines on the audience at yesterday's performance at the Globe Theatre Photograph: John Voos

into a neckband of 15 inches and even the administrative staff have been knitting hose using hand-spun wool.

Evening performances are discreetly illuminated by flood-

linen hand-sewn and gathered lights secreted beneath the thatched roof which covers the top gallery of the three tiers of seats which encircle the raised stage. The audience sit on oak

ing in the area around the stage which thrusts forward into the space. The experience is similar to standing in the arena of the Albert Hall at a Promenade concert, only feet away from the performers.

The biggest problem for the directors and actors (and the audience if you are unlucky enough to be sitting in the wrong place) are the two huge pillars on either side of the stage which support the roof. The stage space is broken up and large scale action has to be constructed around them.

The gains, however, are considerable. The most exciting element is the onus the theatre places on the actor. Soliloquies and audience address become strikingly intimate. Lighting in most theatres is so strong that actors can see little but the front row. Here the actor can see everyone in the audience and

thus address people directly. With a play like Henry V this pays huge dividends. In the opening chorus, Mark Rylance the Globe's artistic director asks? "May we cram/Within this wooden O the very casques/ That did affright the air of Agincourt?"

By the end of the play, the answer from an audience who have been busy hissing and booing the dastardly English plotters and the villainous French would appear to be a



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President's women disagree over the honourable member

Mary Dejevsky Washington

Under other circumstances, it might be regarded as the ulti-mate female put-down: a lady named Gennifer Flowers has come forward to say that the self-styled leader of the free world has no particular distinguishing mark around his private parts. To President Clinton, however, her "revelation" and a few more in the same spirit - could bring at least temporary salvation.

For Ms Flowers, whose claim during the 1992 presidential campaign to have been Mr Clinton's mistress has never been denied by the president, may be well qualified to know. Interviewed on a national

ongoing saga of the President and Paula Jones - who alleges that Mr Clinton made improper advances in an Arkansas hotel room six years ago - Ms Flowers did as much as she

could to rescue the president. Would he have done a thing like that? said the woman immortalised as Gennifer with a G: "I find it hard to believe that he would drop his pants and expose himself to someone who had not clearly let him know that that's what she wanted him to do."

have been deposited for safe-

keeping across America) that

Bill Clinton - then governor of

And of perhaps Ms Jones's strongest suit, her sworn testi-Court to prevent. mony (several copies of which

characteristics" in the genital area, Ms Flowers said: "I have no idea what she means by that There is no mark there that I remember." Now memory is a fickle thing, as Mr Clinton's \$450-an-hour

lawyer, Robert Bennett - who. says the President has no recoffection of any encounter in an Arkansas hotel room - well knows. Nor does her reply disprove Ms Jones's claim. Only a medical examination of the president can do that but his wyer says that is a humiliation he will fight up to the Supreme

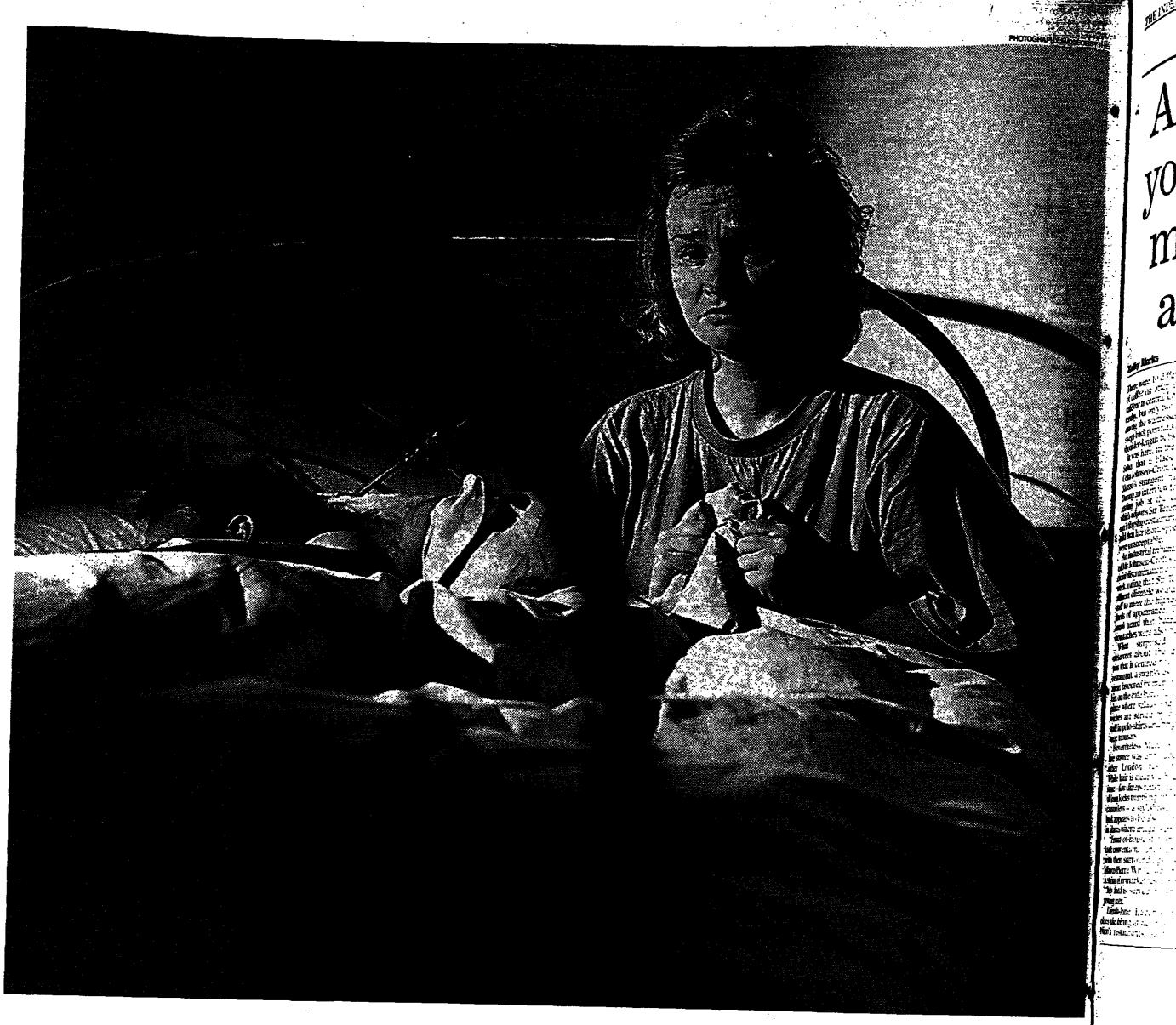
Temporarily, though, in a Washington that now sees sex wherever it used to see Reds, Ms Flowers' intervention could

help to calm the mood. It could also help Mr Bennett. He emerged clearly shattered from a meeting with Mr Clinton earlier this week, and went on all the talk shows to take back the threat he had issued three days before to delve into Ms Jones's

Whatever happened that day at the White House - and no one suggests it was anything improper - Mr Bennett is now of the view that an investigation of Ms Jones's earlier career is in no one's interests. Was he told it could then be open season on the president?

Enter, right on cue, Ms Flow-ers. Her silence since 1992 has often prompted speculation about a deal. But perhaps she

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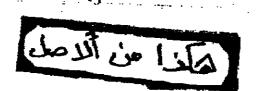
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Any hairstyle you like on the menu so long as it's bland

There were 10 different types of coffee on offer at Mezzo's café bar in central London vesterday, but only two hairstyles among the waitresses: severe, swept-back ponytails and neat, shoulder-length bobs.

It was here, in the heart of Soho, that a black woman, Celia Johnson-Croft, fell foul of Mezzo's stringent hair code. During an interview for a waitressing job at the café bar, which adjoins Sir Terence Conran's flagship restaurant, she was told that her short, spiky braids were unacceptable.

An industrial tribunal rejected Ms Johnson-Croft's claim of racial discrimination earlier this week, ruling that Sir Terence's affluent clientele would expect staff to meet the highest standards of appearance. The tribunal heard that beards and moustaches were also banned. What surprised some

observers about the dispute was that it centred not on the restaurant, a swanky establish-ment favoured by men in suits, but on the café bar, a laid-back place where salads and sandwiches are served by waiting staff in polo-shirts and bright orange trousers.

Nevertheless, Mezzo's hardy line stance was applauded by other London restaurants. While hair is clearly a hygiene issue – few diners relish the sight of long locks tumbling into their cassoulets - a stylishly-coiffed look appears to be also de rigeur in places where image is crucial.

Front-of-house staff should look conventional and blend in with their surroundings," said Marco Pierre White, who runs a string of upmarket restaurants.
"My food is served by smart

does the hiring at her husband

House rules

Extracts from Mezzo's si

avoid strong perfumes and deodorants

■ long hair must be tied back and secured with a black clip, band or ribbon make-up should look natural personal jewellery must be discreet and limited to

one watch, one ring and a pair of stud earnings; bracelets are not permitted. ■ black socks or tights must be worn at all times shoes should be kept polished and in good condition III fingernalis must be kept trimmed to a moderate length and only clear nail

should avoid strong af-tershave and deodorant ■ beards and moustaches are not permitted for staff in contact with customers ■ personal jewellery limited to one watch and one ring; earrings and bracelets not ■ socks must be worn at all

■ fingernails must be kept neatly trimmed

customers expected waiting staff to be spotlessly clean and immaculately groomed.

"Every restaurant has its own house style and staff have to fit in," she said. "I personally would not hire a waitress with dreadlocks or a punky haircut. It would look too different and detract from the ambience. Our image is of a serious eating place with good food and discreet service." Gordon Ramsay, owner of

young men."
Dinah-Jane Ladenis, who the Michelin-starred Aubergine, Nico's restaurants, said that drew a distinction between





kitchen and front-of-house staff. "I have got evil-looking skinhead bastards in my kitchen, but up-stairs the staff have to be goodlooking, soft-spoken and very, very sophisticated," he said.

"Hair should be short, neat and well looked after. It can't spill all over the place, it can't be spiked, it can't be gelled. Big hair? I guess that would be fine as long as it looked smart."

But some of Sir Terence's competitors are more laid-back about hair codes. Stephen Bull,

Not hair: Cella Johnson-Croft's spiky braids fell foul of Mezzo's stringent hair code Photograph: National Pictures who has just opened his third London restaurant, said: "As a

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Trimble offers a glimmer of hope

reland Correspondent

A few days short of the first anniversary of the glacially slow mul-ti-party talks in Belfast, a move by Ulster Unionist leader David Trim-ble has awakened hopes that the talks might get down to serious business. Mr Trimble spoke of "pigeon-

holing" the contentious issue of arms de-commissioning which has effectively stalled the talks for the last year. This might open the door for substantive negotiations.

To date the talks have remained stuck on procedural issues, most notably how and when the de-commissioning issue might be dealt with. The lack of agreement on this key point has meant that after a year there is still no agreed agenda for the discussions.

Mr Trimble, who last week

returned from a conference where South African negotiators outlined how they had circumvented such issues, said that if the talks process was moving forward then the arms issue could be set aside for the

If, however, a renewed IRA cease-fire brought about the possibility of Sinn Fein entry into talks the de-commissioning issue would then be revived and dealt with at that stage.

He declared: "If we are sure the train is moving without them (Sinn Fein], de-commissioning is not so pressing and the issue could then be pigeon-holed until such time as it becomes a real issue again."

The proposal brought a dusty response from Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's president, who said that Mr Trimble could not be given a veto over how talks functioned or who participated in them. The Rev Ian Paisley, of the De-

mocratic Unionists, was also critical, saying that the issue was vital and

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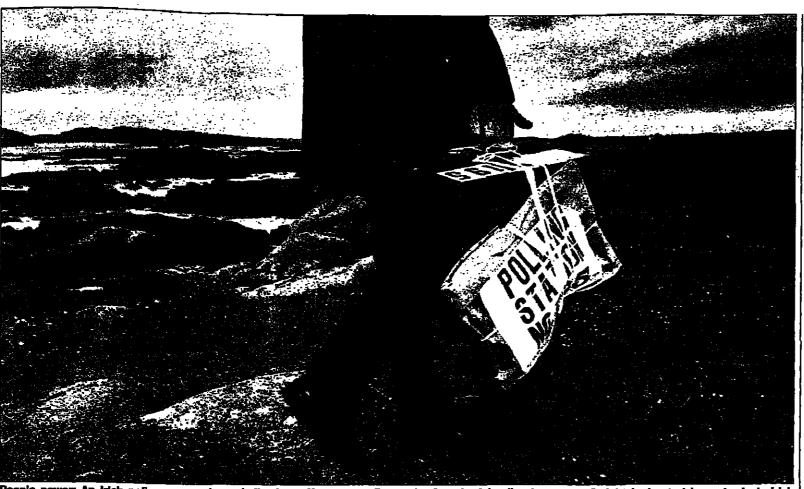
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People power: An Irish policeman carries a ballot box off Inishfree, Donegal, after the island's electorate of eight had voted in yesterday's Irish general election. Early exit polls showed the centre-right alliance poised to topple prime minister John Bruton

Photograph: Crispin Rodwell/Reuters

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Emu back to haunt Lilley's campaign

Colin Brown Chief Political Correspondent

The backstabbing between the right-wing contenders for the Conservative Party leadership intensified last night with accusations that Peter Lilley "got in a muddle" at a private meeting of the Thatcherite 92 group of Tory MPs.

The former secretary of state for social security was said to have failed to give a convincing reply when he was challenged over whether he would have stayed in John Major's Cabinet if it had backed Britain's entry

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into a single currency.

Michael Howard, the for-

wing Tory MPs for saying he derlines the closeness of the would have resigned, according to his camp. "Peter Lilley refused to say clearly where he stood on the single currency. It was very silly because they asked a simple question - would you have stayed in the Cabinet if it had been in favour of entry to a single currency - Michael Howard surprised them all by saying 'no',' said a Howard supporter.

The in-fighting among the right-wing candidates deep-ened as Kenneth Clarke pulled off the second coup of the week by winning the support of Sir George Young, the former transport secretary. It came as a blow to the Hague camp, who had been hoping to land Sir George, in spite of his reputa-

"The key question is who is most likely to lead us to victory in five years. We need someone voters can relate to and identify with, who can communicate clearly with them and can land punches on Labour ... Ken has the extra qualities that make him an outstanding can-

tion as a patrician Tory baronet.

didate," said Sir George. Stephen Dorreil, who last week dropped out in favour of Mr Clarke, will be appearing on the media this weekend for the former Chancellor, who has avoided a high profile for the first round. The struggle for an advantage

lot next Tuesday. Mr Clarke is expected to come first, but the fight is on for second and third The candidates who come fourth and fifth will be under pressure to drop out. The Howard camp is claiming that the former bome sec retary has survived the attack on

contest to be high in the first bal-

him by his former minister, Ann Widdecombe, and is gaining support, challenging William Hague for second place after Mr Clarke, with Mr Lilley and Mr Redwood trailing.

John Redwood's demand that the Shadow Cabinet should implacably oppose a single currency is seen as the price for his support in the final rounds, and an attempt to force Mr Howard. if he wins to adopt a tougher policy. Mr Redwood's policy would make it impossible for Mr Clarke to serve in his Shadow Cabinet. But Mr Howard is preparing a compromise to enable Mr Clarke to stay on board.

"Michael is opposed to a single currency in principle but in the long run, that is a policy around which the Conservative Party can unite," said one Howard supporter. "It leaves room for Ken who says he is opposed to a single currency being fudged. Michael's view is that it will always be fudged."

deal heralds

Barrie Clement

full-time colleagues.

who make up the vast majority

Staff who do not work full time have the same rights to claim unfair dismissal and redundancy following a House of Lords ruling two years ago but they do not have the same contractual rights, such as paid holidays, sick leave and staff discounts. Yesterday's accord will

right those perceived wrongs.

Under the Social Chapter, British unions will be able to ex-

Continental counterparts. The potential for increasing union power in the UK was the main reason why the previous government opposed the social section of the Maastricht treaty

and secured an opt-out. Adair Turner, director general of the Confederation of inevitability of the new relaposed law on part-time workers

would have a "limited impact". He said: "Our approach to the Social Chapter will be to look at each proposal which emerges on its merits". He said where laws were proposed with which the CBI disagreed, they would be opposed. The CBI's strongly committed to a flexible labour market and to equal opportunities. The agreement should not undermine existing flexibility, but reflect the high regard employers now place on their part-time employees." Mr Turner said most part-timers already received equal employ-

ment rights. Kamlesh Bahl, chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said she was "delighted" with yesterday's agreement. John Monks, general secretary of the TUC, described the deal as "ground-breaking". The agreement was formally signed last night in The Hagic in the presence of Wim Kok, Dutch Prime Minister. and Jacques Santer, President of the lation along with their European Commission.

Part-time jobs unions' revival

Labour Editor

The first sign that union leaders will have a critical influence on British legislation emerged esterday when representatives of workers and employers agreed 6 million part-timers should have the same rights as British Industry, accepted the

While the deal was struck on tionships between both sides of the Continent between the Eu- commerce but said the proropean TUC and the equivalent body for employers, it will even-

tually become law in Britain. Because of the Government's impending signature to the Social Chapter of the Maastricht treaty, the agreement will reach the British statute book within two years and will be especially welcome to female workers

of part-timers.

The part-time workers' deal will now go before the European Social Affairs Council later this year, which is expected to ratify the agreement so that it becomes law.

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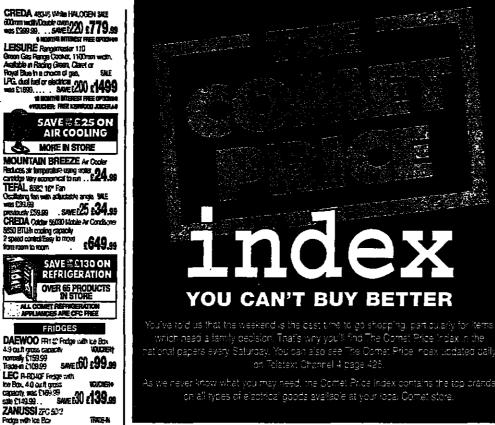
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Aitken: my sharp editing of letter

Kim Sengupta

Former Cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken admitted in the High Court yesterday that he was "guilty" of "sharp-editing" a letter to the Cabinet Secretary about a stay at the Paris Ritz Hotel owned by Mohamed Al Fayed.

Mr Aitken said he had not intended to deceive Sir Robin Butler, his intention was to throw "dust in the eyes" of the Guardian newspaper, which was pursuing stories linking him to alleged corruption.

The former defence pro-curement minister and chief sec-

retary to the Treasury is suing the Guardian and Granada Television, makers of World in Action, over allegations that he pimped for Arabs and took part in illegal arms dealing.

George Carmen QC, counsel for defence, asked Mr Aitken whether he had failed the test of total candour and total honesty expected of a Cabinet minister in his dealings with the Cabinet Secretary, when it came to the letter about who settled the hotel bill.

Mr Carmen said: "There you were, a Cabinet minister, misleadingly misquoting the letter from the Ritz which would mislead Sir Robin Butler." Mr Aitken responded: "I had no intention of deceiving Sir Robin. My sharp editing of the letter, to which I plead guilty, was not intended to deceive him but to put the Guardian off the scent." Mr Carmen suggested that

this "was a misrepresentation" of a letter sent by the general manager of the Ritz Hotel in Paris. He invited Mr Aitken to differentiate between "sharp editing" and "dishonest editing".

Mr Aitken replied: "That's your language. I would put it dif-ferently. Dishonesty is a blatant lie. Sharp editing, intended to confuse a hostile adversary, ght not be draise it is not as reprehensible as you are trying to make it sound."

In a blistering exchange at the beginning of the cross-examination on the third day of the trial, Mr Carmen asked Mr Aitken if he accepted that he was "totally unfit for public of-

fice" if the judge had to make the "melancholy decision" that he had "lied to the Cabinet Secretary, lied to the Prime Minister, lied to the House of Commons and lied to this court,

over your stay at the Ritz". Mr Aitken responded: "You are dealing here with hypothesis on hypothesis, but if his lordship were to make those dramatic judgements then obviously it would be a shattering blow to me, yes."

Mr Carmen asked: "It would butcher you reputation?" Mr Aitken responded: "My reputation has already been butchered." Mr Carmen continued: "It would butcher it yet again?" Mr Aitken agreed: "Yes it will."

Mr Aitken told Mr Justice Popplewell that he had met an old friend and business colleague, Said Ayas, for a social meeting at the Ritz during a Paris visit. He refuted allegations that he had met a number of other Arab businessmen to discuss arms sales.

Mr Aitken said when he had arrived at the Ritz he had pro-duced his credit card but had been told "it won't be necessary". He said: "Unfortunately, at the time I did not think this was of any great significance. I was not on guard because I was suffering from a degree of 'Yes Minister' - I was addressed as Monsieur Ministere because grand hotels sometimes greet guests they think are grand in this very respectful way

He told the court the bill was later settled by his wife, with money given by him. The Guardian had been asking him about the payment of the bill and he had responded to the newpaper's "conspiracy theory".

Mr Aitken said he bad bumped into Peter Preston, the then editor of the Guardian, at a dinner in November 1993. The former minister continued that he said to Mr Preston: "Well, Peter, I hope you have now established that all these conspiracy stories you were floating across me a few weeks ago have all turned out to be rubbish.

"He replied in a rather chilling sort of way 'Oh no, I think we will get you in the end'. I didn't know what he meant by



The unreal thing: Clifford Possum Tjapaltjarn sits in front of Coca Cola Dreaming while using music sticks (druru) to sing about his paintings Photograph: Philip Meech

Aboriginal artist puts on dream show

An Aboriginal artist whose dreams form the basis of his paintings has brought his oneman show to London.

Former cattle stockman turned painter Clifford Possum Tjapahjarri, 65, is a mus-ter at combining in a single painting a number of dreaming trails and the stories - which go back to the creation of Australia - are depicted in his work.

The artist, who was one of the founders of the Aboriginal art movement which came to the fore in the 1970s, takes viewers of his work through a landscape, mapping out the stories in his dreams, of which he is the cus-

todian, on to canvas. So popular are his paintings that one of them is featured in the Queen's personal collection. Mr Possum's latest show - his third in Britain - runs at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery in Windmill Street, central London, until 5 July.

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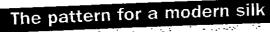
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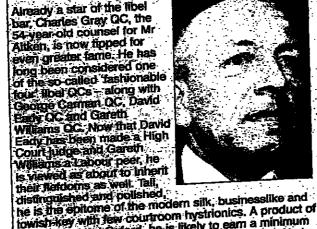
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Aiready a star of the libel har, Charles Gray QC, the 54-year-old counsel for Mr Aitken, is now tipped for even greater fame. He has long been considered one of the so-called fashionable



towish key with few courtroom hystrionics. A product of winchester sind Oxford, he is likely to earn a minimum of half a million a year and probably much more. He has notched up a string of court victories for the likes of notched up a string of court victories for the likes of Jason Donovan, Lord Linley, and the actors Oliver Reed and William Rosche and many more out of court, making him, for example, something approaching making him, for example, something approaching pally Telegraph proprietor, Corrad Black's personal fibel pally Telegraph proprietor, Corrad Black's personal fibel pally Telegraph proprietor, Corrad Black's personal fibel pally Telegraph proprietor, the E1.5m he won for the Tory peer Lord Aldington after he was talsely accused of being a war criminal, was however the most pyritic, since the money was never paid.

Charmer loved by the juries

George Carman QC, 67, counsel for The Guardian and Granada Television, has built a formidable reputation as the man juries love as he collected a string of famous victories, and not just in the libel field. The Blackpoolborn Carman cut his legal teeth on the northern circuit and in the past was as well known for criminal work. He detanded the tomer Liberal leader Jeramy Thorpe, who leader Jeramy Thorpe, who leared of conspiracy to marder and conducted



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Bargain basement. (Semi, terraced, bungalow, or detached.)

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Deadline for action approaches, but lobbying by powerful companies is stalling international agreement, reports Nicholas Schoon

American oil giants block efforts to end global warming

Time is running out for the most important environmental negotiations in history - the UN talks about what rich countries should do about about manmade climate change caused by

our use of fossil fuels. The most important player is the United States, which pro-

declare its hand. But American industry, and particularly its giant oil and energy multinationals, are lobbying skillfully against the significant cuts needed to make a start on tackling the threat.

The Washington-based Global Climate Coalition only has a staff of four but represents tens



not large, we're just, I guess, pretty effective," a spokesman

Two years ago the developed nations, including Russia and the former Warsaw pact nations, promised to come up with firm, legally binding commitments to cut their emissions of green-

um-sized US businesses, as well house gases from 2000 on-as oil and utility giants. "We're wards. They also promised to reach an agreement on precisely what this commitment should be at a conference of climate treaty nations in Kyoto, Japan

the rich states are still poles apart, with three weeks of negotiations booked before Kyoto.

At one extreme is Australia. which refuses to contemplate any cuts in its output of carbon dioxide, the most important of pollutants. Australia is highly dependent on using and exof the fossil fuels. It has major

At the other extreme is the European Union, which claims world leadership on the issue by making a firm commitment to between 2000 and 2010. Europe says it is willing to deliver a 15 per cent cut, provided the other industrialised countries agree, though as yet it has no strategy to achieve this.

The other negotiators find Europe's virtuous position dis-turbing. Some of the less wealthy, still industrialising, EU states are allowed large increases in emissions over this period - 40 per cent in the case of Portugal. The idea is that this will be offset by big cuts among

wealthier member states, so

the Union as a whole will hit the

 per cent target.
 Under the last government, Britain agreed to sign up to a 10 per cent cut in emissions. The new government has come into office with a manifesto commitment to make a 20 per cent cut, but admits it has yet to de-

vise policies needed to do so. The environment minister, Michael Meacher, indicated this week that unless the rest of Europe was willing to work towards tougher targets, this 20 per cent commitment would not be forthcoming, because meeting it would involve "real pain for business and consumers".

Japan, another key player, has not yet pledged any cuts, nor has the US. The White House says it is difficult to make commitments, with powerful energy industry lobbyists and a conservative Congress that sees emission limits as a foreign threat to the gas-guzzling American economy.

The US is, however, insisting tich countries should be allowed to make some of their contribution by helping developing nations control their fastrising emissions.

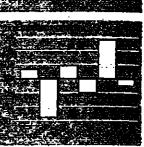
This would mean demonstrating that instead of making a cut at home it had enabled China, for example, to slow the rate at which its emissions are rising by an equivalent amount. The EU has real doubts about the value of this approach.

tion will contemplate is an alliance of small island states which are frightened that much of their habitable land will disappear as sea levels rise. Meanwhile, Opec nations,

such as Saudi Arabia, are suggesting that if the world cuts its oil use, they must be compensated for a loss in exports.

The main idea behind the Kyoto deal is that the rich nations would lead the way in attacking the threat of devastating shifts burning fossil fuels





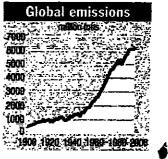
produced most of the pollution to date and still do. Only then can the developing countries, whose share of emissions is rising, be expected to follow.

The multinational oil com-

panies, mostly US-based, no onger speak with one voice. The European ones, BP and, to a lesser extent, Shell, say it is time for countries to take the threat seriously, though they do not suggest selling less oil.

Dr Bob Watson, the World Bank's chief scientist and a former pupil at an Essex grammar school, was until recently science adviser to the White House. He guesses that President Bill Clinton will offer a 5 per cent cut between 2000 and

The leaders of the rich countries, including Britain, will discuss the issue at the G7 summit in Denver in a fortnight. It will dominate the five-year followup to the Rio earth summit in



New York held afterwards. Chris Rose, deputy chief executive of Greenpeace UK, said: "It's 50-50 whether Kyoto ends disastrously or fairly well. He said it was extremely important to set a target for cuts in 2005, because that would be within today's politicians' terms

If the chance is missed to make a start on cutting emissions in Japan this year, then the cumbersome pace of climate diplomacy dictates that it will be years before fresh attempts could be made.

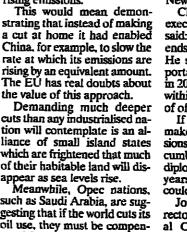
John Schlaes, executive director and founder of the Global Climate Coalition, said; These things can't be determined on the basis of emotion . countries are going to have to decide, ultimately, what is in their own best interests."

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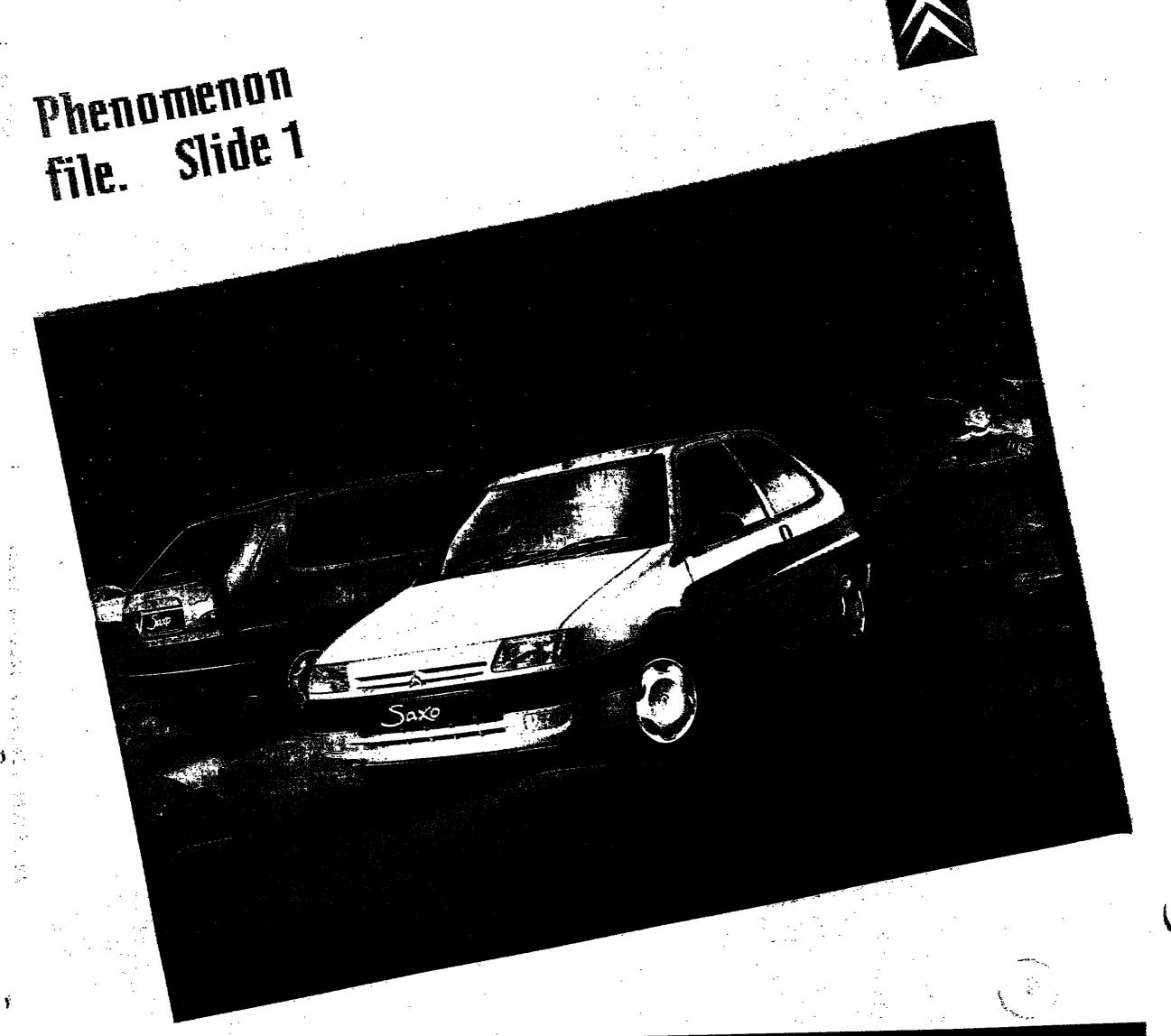
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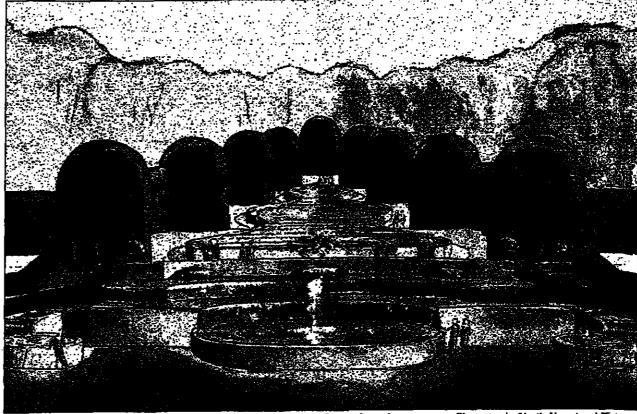
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Duke's garden to be landscape for 21st cen

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

A classical 19th-century walled garden which fell into dereliction after the First World War is to be transformed into an avant-garde water garden by an international team of designers including the "rebel" Japanese architect Tadao Ando. The 12-acre garden at Alnwick Castle in Northumberland will be-

create rainbows over the lawns in summer and appear luminous to visitors by moonlight.

The Duchess of Northumberland, Jane Percy, yesterday out the first turf to launch her £8m to £10m project. though that time-honoured act may be all that is conventional about it. Tadao Ando, who has just won the Royal Gold Medal for architecture

though he trained as carpenter, is to

come a place where mists and sprays design the pavilion and the water fea-

He will work alongside garden designers Jacques and Peter Wirtz from Belgium and plants specialists from France and Germany.

Together they will transform the sloping garden which enjoyed an international reputation 200 years ago. Created by the first duke in the 18th century and redesigned to complement the Italian interior of the

but fell into decline after the First World War.

The Prince of Wales is the project's patron and in a statement issued by said the Prince. the Northumberland estate he praised the plans, which will strongly feature moving water, including cascades, waterfalls, fountains, pools and canals.

"In seeking to recapture the lost

castle in the 19th century, the gar-den was popular for family outings ing it with others, the present Duchess is taking up once more the innovative ideas so brilliantly demonstrated in previous generations,"

> The garden will be open to the public all year while the pavilion, which will be capable of holding 300 people, will be the main source of revenue, supporting a team of up to

Europe this century".

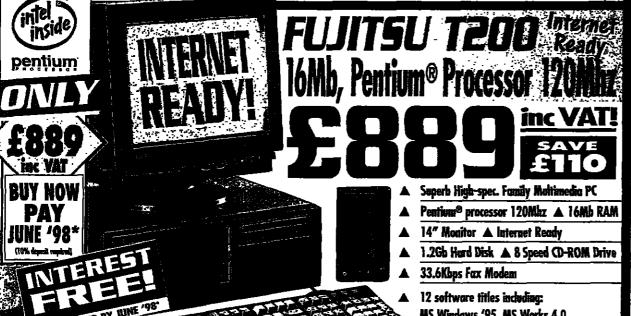
While reflecting the former garden's classical layout it will, she said, be "a contemporary garden for the 21st century, using the talent, expertise and technology of our

will catch the light, creating a rain-

The duchess's vision is to create bow effect. We will put in lighting "one of the most exciting gardens in Europe this century". from the beginning so the water works can be illuminated."

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Staff shun schools on failure list

Education Correspondent

Schools branded failures by the Government vesterday claimed the bad publicity had blighted their efforts to recruit new staff, leaving them struggling to reerse a spiral of decline.

Candidates applying for vacancies at some schools on a list of 18 deemed by ministers to be improving too slowly immediately withdrew their ap*idependent* revealed.

In one central London primary, headteachers from neighbouring successful schools tried to poach nursery teachers, enticing them to leave with reminders that they faced losing

their jobs if the school closed. The named schools also acknowledged that, in order to attract new staff, they will be forced to offer higher salaries and other inducements to per-

suade candidates to apply. Although David Blunkett. the Secretary of State for Education, has emphasised that schools on the failing list will be offered extra help to aid their recovery, the threat of closure still hangs over them if they do not make significant improve-

ment by the end of September. Naming the 18 schools was an early, controversial move by the new Labour government. and drew opposition from

teaching unions. The school standards minister Stephen Byers, unveiling the ist on 20 May, said all those identified would be given support by so-called Special Measures Action Recovery Teams, or SMART teams. The teams, regarded the exercise as very made up of experienced heads

and other experts, would act as "help squads" rather than hit squads, he said.

However, the 18 schools, which are still waiting to hear details of how the help squads will work, say the teams will not ease their staffing problems.

At South Benwell Primary School in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, nine candidates were shortlisted for two jobs on the day the failing list was published. Four have now pulled out and the plications or failed to turn up headteacher, Alan Johnston, to interviews, a survey by The expects more to follow. He said: "One of those withdrawing was very straight and said she didn't want to be rude but it was a bit too much of a gamble going to a school which the government might close in six months. The frustration is, I can well understand that point of view, but how am I now meant to get the good staff this school

needs if it is to improve?" Upbury Manor Grant Maintained School in Gillingham, Kent, was due to interview for two posts, a departmental deputy and a modern languages teacher, later in the week of the failing schools announcement. Not one candidate turned up.

Only one applicant out of five due for interview for a history post arrived at Kelsey Park school, Bromley, the day after

the school was named. Tim Joiner, a local councilfor drafted on to the governing body of St Mary of the Angels primary school in Westminster last December, said that after appearing on the list the school now expected to have to pay more to attract new staff.

Mr Byers last night said that most of the schools named had

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Jupiter reveals its kaleidoscope of seasons



Plenty of heat, lots of water but almost no likelihood of life

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It may look like a Turner paint-

ing but this is an image of the atmosphere of Jupiter, and it has deserts and tropics like the Earth. scientists say. However, there is almost no chance life could exist on the gas

ant, according to expens at the US space agency Nasa. Although data beamed back by a 'suicide probe" in December 1995 showed there is water - essential to life - in the atmoson the planet where organic compounds could gather.

The pictures were beamed back by a probe which was sent into the huge planet's atmosphere in December 1995 from the Galileo spacecraft. Though in minutes, it managed to send back data which has now been analysed by the Nasa team.

Scientists were surprised to find "wet" and "dry" regions in the atmosphere. They had expected lots of water; instead, they found dry, wet, "super-dry"

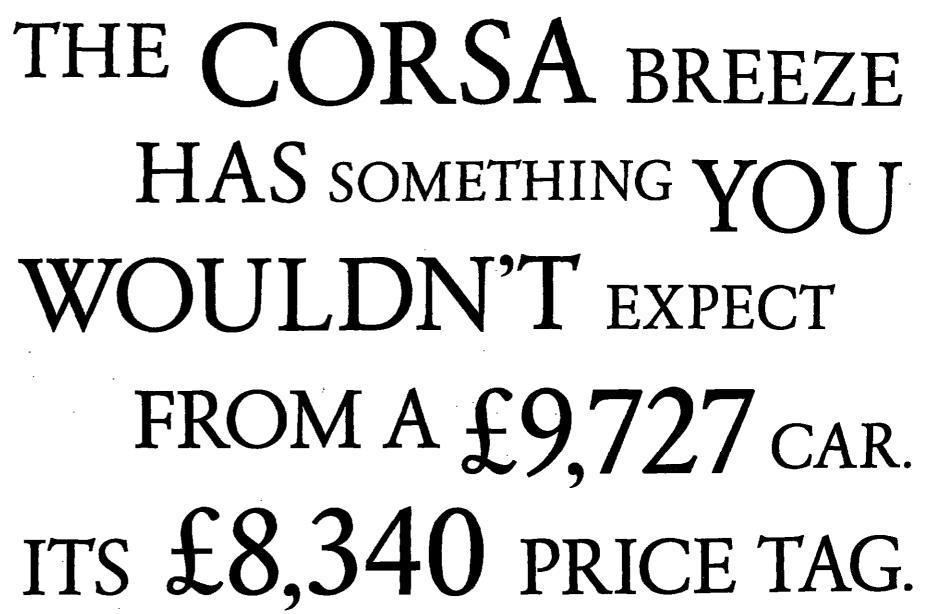
and "super-wet" regions. "Jupiter is wet," said Andrew Ingersoll, a planetary science professor at the California inadded that the lack of a solid surface made it "highly unlikely" life could exist there.

One planetary scientist said the mixture of elements found in Jupiter's atmosphere suggests it was seeded by comets: "We think the same bombardment ... also brought the same important elements to Earth."

The probe entered a clearing in the clouds of the planet. Through that dry spot, deeper and warmer layers are visible. The picture shows a "false colour" image of those clouds, phere, there is no solid surface using infrared wavelengths to indicate variations in cloud height and thickness. The dark blue the deep cloud, while the light blue region to the left is covered by a very high baze. The multicoloured region on the right consists of overlapping cloud

> In all the area of the picture covers about 143 million square miles, the merest speck on a planet whose volume is 1,300 times greater than the Earth's.

The Galileo spacecraft is now more than half-way through a two-year orbital tour of Jupiter and its major moons: lo, Europa. Callisto and Ganymede. There are high hopes that life could exist below the icy surface stitute of Technology. But he of Europa.





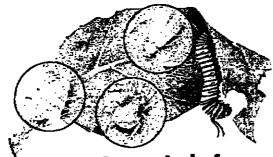
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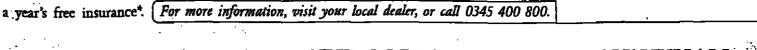
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Bias that stops women academics reaching the top

Education Editor

Women are still struggling to reach the top academic jobs, particularly in the oldest universities, says a survey published yesterday. Only 8 per cent of professors are female, though about half the places on university degree courses are filled

Women face the toughest fight for equality in traditional universities such as Oxford and Cambridge. Oxford has 15 women professors out of a to-tal of 232 and only 5.3 per cent of Cambridge professors are women. The figures for 1995-96 are revealed in a survey compiled for the Times Higher Education Supplement.

Two new universities, South Bank in London and Oxford Brookes, come top of the league table. One-third of their professors are women. However, the new University of Plymouth is bottom: only 1 of its 44 professors is a woman.

Professor Susan Greenfield, 46, professor of pharmacology at Oxford University, known for her research into Alzheimer's

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given an honorary professorship last year after more than 20 years at the university. That means she has the title but no extra money: her basic university salary is

She said: "One of the problems is prejudice of a sinister type. I have never been aware that I have been denied a job because of my gender, but I have made remarks on university committees and been ignored as though I were invisible. Women are not seen as beare going to have to think about how women deal minute-byminute, day-by-day with snide

remarks and put-downs.
"I was talking to three male colleagues the other day and frowning because I was trying to understand what was being said. One of them said 'there is no point frowning at me like that, Susan'. Would he have said that to a man? In one sense, it seems trivial, but if you have that every day, it erodes confidence."

There was a particular problem for women scientists, she suggested, because, unlike colleagues in arts subjects, they could not work at home when they had small children and, if they took time off, they rapidly lost touch with new advances in their field. "There is no way you can compete for a grant if you have been away from the job for two years. It is no coincidence that I don't have children," she said, adding that prejudice was not confined to men. Women often had a low opinion of other women.

An Oxford University spokes-woman said it now had 30 women professors after the appointment of 15 honourary women professors last year. Among its top female academics are Kay Davies, professor of genetics; Dr Jessica Rawson, warden of Merton College and an expert on ancient China; and Carole Jordan, professor of physics.

At London University, female professors include Lisa Jardine, professor of English, and Heather Liddell, professor of computer science, both at Queen Mary and Westfield Colfemale professors are most likely to be found in medicine. education and librarianship and least likely in engineering, technology and agriculture.





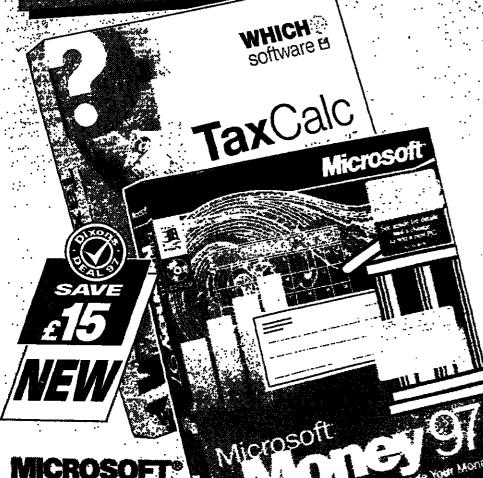


Oxford achievers: Professor Susan Greenfield (top), Dr. Jessica Rawson (centre), and Professor Carole Jordan

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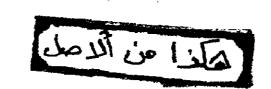
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Andalucia's olive army spoils for a fight

An EU plan to tackle fraud could kill a way of life in Spain

Elizabeth Nash Bujalance, Andalucia

The sun is high and hot, the earth, after recent downpours, soft underfoot and aromatic. The rolling countryside around the Andalucian village of Bu-jalance, east of Cordoba, glows, and grey-green olive groves stretch for hundreds of miles be-yond the horizon. This is the biggest olive-oil producing re-gion in the world, and there is revolt in the air.

Francisco Haro Priego, head of one of Bujalance's 50 olivepressing co-operatives, tramps between the neatly trimmed trees. "We constantly trim the trees and keep the earth clear



the quality and the yield," he ex-

lasts about nine weeks, provides

the only employment for some 300,000 Spanish day-labourers or jornaleros. Francisco says Brussels' plans to reform the subsidy system will eliminate

these jobs. The EU Agriculture wants to subsidise each tree, instead of the oil produced, to help

"Obviously," says Francisco, "there'll be no incentive to tend the trees, so they'll be abandoned and our jornaleros will be idle. How will they live? There's

nothing else here. If Fischler is worried about fraud, he should strengthen controls, not destroy jobs. We are very worried." Worry and anger brought

more than 50,000 olive-oil workers and growers to Madrid last week to protest outside the European Commission's office. The demonstration, joined briefly by the Minister of Agriculture, Loyola de Palacio, crowned a week-long march on the capital from Cordoba.

Jose Alonso Cervilla, who
represents the olive sector on the farmers' organisation Coag, was among the marchers and will join dozens of growers tak-

ing a battlebus on Monday to Strasbourg, Paris, Bonn, Brussels and Amsterdam, where they will protest at the EU summit on 16 June. "Fischler isn't even saving money with this proposal," Mr Cervilla complains, as he and Francisco size up the budlike young olives. "It costs the same, 2bn ecu, whether you subsidise

the output or the tree. Most fraud is perpetrated by small producers, but our producers are mainly medium and large. Now Italy, they're mostly small producers. Italy is the focus of resent-ment. Mr Fischler overestimates the number of Italian trees, while underestimating the Spanish, so Italians win out

thing Spain has got left. EU farm policy has cut production

tween harvests. at Spanish expense, Mr Cervilla says. "Olives are the only

Tamished landscape: Workers and farmers from Andalucia, the biggest olive-oil producing region in the world, are taking their fight against a proposed change in subsidy to the Amsterdam summit on 16 June

Photograph: Robert Harding

of our milk, meat and cereals, which we now have to import. They can't ask us to cut back on the only thing we still have a enough of."

Mr Fischler, visiting the region in April, ruined his grove cred by plucking an olive from a tree and eating it like a cherthe lore of transforming this bit-ter and indigestible fruit into a palatable delicacy.

Back at the almazara or ressing mill, where 500 local growers bring their crop be-tween December and February, Francisco proudly shows me four gleaming stainless steel centrifuges and a vast new storage vat bought last year with
450m pesetas (£1.25m) of borrowed money. "We'll have trouble paying it off if Mr Fischler
has his way," he warns.
He takes me into the office

and turns the pages of the ac-counts book that logs the olives coming in, the oil going out. "We have to send copies to the ministry every month, and two or descends and checks everything. We might make a mistake sometimes, but there's certainly no fraud," he says, affronted. Balmy Andalucia, often por-

trayed as Spain's flowery par-adise, has historically been a semi-feudal nest of peasant revolt. In the 1970s, the conservative prime minister, Adolfo Suarez, was constantly afraid of social upheaval by legions of Andalucian jornaleros forced to choose between emigration or destitution. Then, as now, the problem was lack of work be-

Dole, and government makework schemes, have lessened the danger. But Francisco fears the consequences unless Mr Fischler thinks again. "It'll be

Mafia's rising star arrested in dawn raid

Andrew Gumbel

The most wanted man in the Sicilian Mafia, the young Palermo boss Pietro Aglieri, was tracked down and arrested vesterday morning in a textbook police operation that breathed new life into Italy's increasingly despondent struggle against organised crime.

The 38-year-old Aglieri, known as "U Signurinu" (the little lord) for his relatively sophisticated education and refined manners, was taken by surprise while hiding out in a disused lemon warehouse in the dilapidated industrial area of

Bagheria, east of Palermo. A dozen police in full assault gear, who had been staking out the premises all night, hurled two volleys of stun gas before bursting into the build-ing and slapping Aglieri in handcuffs along with two of his closest associates, Natale Gam-

bino and Giuseppe La Mattina. Aglieri, wanted for a string of prominent killings including those of the anti-Mafia magistrates Giovanni Falcone and Paolo Borsellino, was believed to have been rebuilding the military wing of Cosa Nostra, which

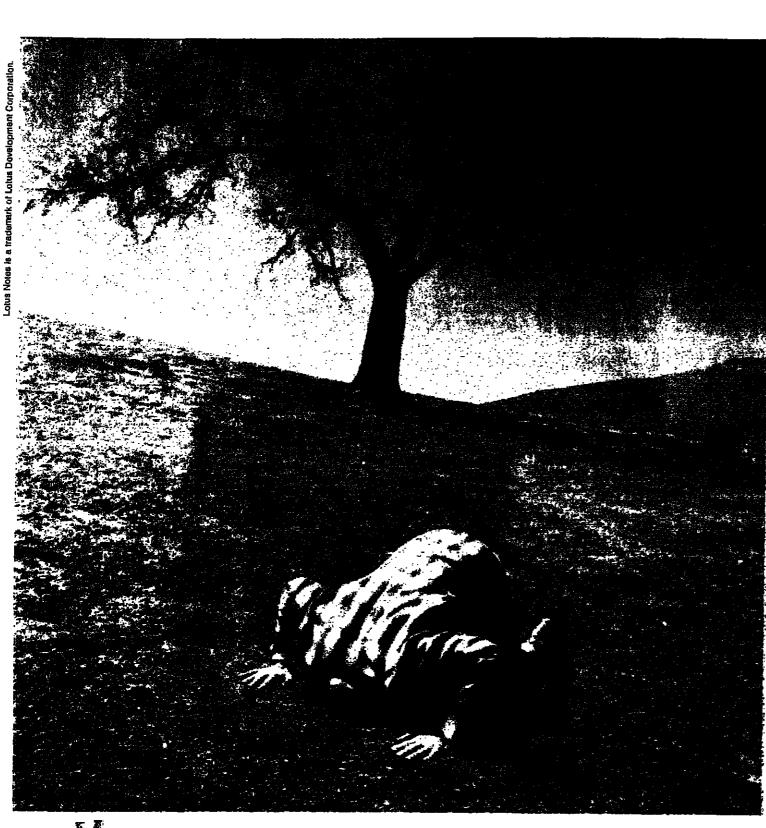
has been devastated by a series of high-profile arrests over the past four years.

Aglieri is considered one of the sharpest brains in the Mafia and a man singularly talented at covering up his tracks. Although active since the early 1980s, his name was not even brought to prosecutors' atten-tion until 1989. It took the authorities almost a year to locate him following the arrest of his right-hand man, Carlo Greco.

As late as Thursday night, the authorities were not sure of his identity and had to call on the captured Mafia killer Giovanni Brusca, a former senior colleague of Aglieri's, to confirm it.

As reported in The Independent a month ago, prosecutors in Palermo have been growing increasingly gloomy about their job because of restrictive new legislation on the justice system and an attempt to cut back the country's witness protection programme. Palermo's chief prosecutor, Giancarlo Caselli said yesterday: "We feel proud because some ill-informed people had claimed that the advent of Mafia informers had diminished our investigative abili-





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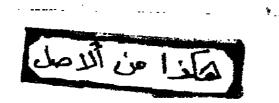
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After 73 years, Russians may grant this man his dying wish

Penultimate resting place?: Visitors to Lenin's tomb have slowed to a trickle. Now Yeltsin wants a referendum on what to do with the body

Moscow

Boris Yeltsin wants Russia to hold Lenin should continue to lie in a mausoleum in Red Square, or whether the founder of the atheist Soviet state should have a Christian burial.

In remarks deliberately chosen to antagonise his Communist foes, the president made it clear where he stands on the issue by arguing a public referendum to decide whether the embalmed body of mummified remains of the Bolshevik revolutionary, who died 73 years ago, are removed from public

> "Lenin must be buried," he told an audience in St Petersburg, home

> > Reuters - Algiers

of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution, "Let's make it look Christian. The dead must be buried in the earth. His mother is buried here in St Petersburg. Lenin asked to be buried here in his will, but his wish was ignored ... it must be done in a gradual, civilised way without either bulldozers or excavators."

In Soviet times, millions used to visit Lenin's mausoleum in Moscow

up the touchy question of Lenin's resolution condemning every year to peer admiringly through bullet-proofed glass at his wax-like body, which was kept at a fate several times before.

carefully monitored temperature

and annually re-embalmed. But his

fortunes have since waned. In 1993,

he lost his guard of honour; recently,

visitors to his tomb have slowed to

He does so knowing it will produce cries of horror from Russia's Duma (lower house parliament) whose large Communist contin-gent still revere the revolutionary

When the issue surfaced earlier Mr Yeltsin, who called for a pubthis year, there were furious protests

any attempt to move the body from its pass the code. red granite tomb as "an act of van-

In particular, the president's lat-est remarks are intended to stoke the fires of his rolling conflict with the legislature, which he is trying to pressure into signing a new tax code. Amid veiled threats that he might dis-

Photograph: Peter Andrews/Reuters

Yelisin has given it three weeks to

While the Kremlin and parliament wrangle, ordinary Russians appear divided over what to do with Vladimir llych Lenin, who died at the age of 54 after earlier suffering three strokes. A recent poll found that 38 per cent felt his body should be left alone, while 48 per cent wantlic ballot in the autumn, has taken in parliament which passed a solve the Duma altogether, Mr ed him to be buried in a cemetery.

significant shorts

President's men set to sweep Algeria election

Close allies of President Liamine Zeroual swept to victory yesterday in Algeria's new parliament after the first general election in more than five years of bloodshed, blamed by officials on Muslim fundamentalists.

The result, ensuring the President's paramount powers should be largely unchallenged in parliament, brought cries of foul from parties trailing the dominant National

Democratic Rally (RND). Interior Minister Mustapha Benmansour said the RND, formed only two months ago, took 155 seats in the 380-seat assembly. It eclipsed the Islam-oriented Movement of a Peaceful Society (MPS) which won 69 seats and third-placed National Liberation Front (FLN), with 64 seats, which as the former sole ruling party had run the state for nearly three decades. Turnout was 65.49 per cent.

Scientologists put on the spot

Federal and state law officials agreed to place the Church of Scientology under nationwide surveillance by counterintelligence agents because of the church's alleged antidemocratic aims. The decision marks the first formal nationwide action against Scientology, though individual states, political parties and cabinet ministers have frequently spoken out against the group.

Kurdish missiles alarm Turkev

A Turkish military spokesman said Kurdish rebels had used sophisticated anti-aircraft missiles to shoot down two army helicopters on a mission in northern Iraq.

General Erol Ozkasnak said the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebels had for the first time gained access to such weaponry from countries which Turkey accuses of supporting the rebels. He said the PKK used SA-7 missiles to bring down a troop carrier with 11 officers and soldiers on board earlier this week Reuters - Ankara

Plea for Nato to stay in Bosnia

International envoy Carl Bildt warned that Bosnia's fragile peace could collapse if Nato peace-keeping troops withdraw in a year, when their mandate expires. "If we were to walk away from the entire thing tomorrow, I think it is likely to fall apart," said Mr Bildt, who is due to step down this month as High Representative to Bosnia.

University shamed over ban

A Hong Kong university overturned an earlier ban and agreed A mong Kong university overturned an earner can and agreed to allow its students to display on campus a sculpture sym-bolising oppression, a student leader said. The University of Hong Kong made the decision on the "Pillar of Shame" monument after a meeting with students.

Reuters - Hong Kong

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We say there is a role for **Government. But** the role of government has changed. It is there to promote the skills, to let them flourish ... it is not the role envisaged by the old left.

Tony Blair yesterday



Europe's Left: United we

Lionel and Tony staunch how stand so ar ap

French want new look at deal on euro

Sarah Heim Malmo

The new French government will this weekend light a fuse under the single currency by calling for a radical rethink of the Luxembourg tomorrow. agreed rule-book for the euro.

mands that the issue of monetary union is now expected to overshadow the European summit in Amsterdam in 10 days'

Some European leaders were even predicting last night the summit, when Europe hopes to sign a new



Theo Waigel: Chief architect of Emu stability pact

treaty, may have to be delayed. Lionel Jospin, the new Socialist French Prime Minister, let it be known at this week's European Socialist congress in the Swedish city of Malmo that he will seek to re-open the "stability pact", the detailed plan for governing the euro zone.

The pact, designed to German lines, was agreed after intensive negotiations at the Dublin summit in December and was due to receive final endorsement from all 15 heads of government at Amsterdam.

Mr Jospin now wants to renegotiate the pact in order to give greater emphasis to jobs and growth. France is also canvassing plans for a change to the Maastricht rules to create a powerful economic "government" which could set eco-

nomic policy for Europe and act as a counterweight to the future European central bank. The ideas are expected to be raised at a dinner to be attended by European finance ministers in

reed rule-book for the euro. Speaking in Malmo, Mr So far-reaching are the de- Jospin refused to comment directly on his ideas for the stability pact but stressed repeatedly the need for European monetary union to concentrate on creating jobs and promoting investment.

He also pointedly refused to endorse current Emu rules or its timetable. "On Emu we do not know what is going to happen. We must clarify the prospects

Any attempt by France to re-write the stability pact would be fiercely resisted by Germany, and a clash looks likely at a Franco-German summit next week, just three days before the Amsterdam meeting.

Germany has presented the stability pact to its public as a Under the pact, countries who do not obey strict economic rules after the euro launch would be subject to a system of fines.

In particular, Germany would resist attempts to build an economic government which could undermine the independence of the Central Bank.

Theo Waigel, the German finance minister and chief architect of the pact, has already suffered a dent in credibility af ter his botched attempts to revalue German gold reserves in order to help the country meet the Maastrict criteria.

Mr Jospin is understood to be planning to call for the re-writing of the key article 103 in the Maastrict treaty in order to establish an economic government consisting of Europe's ministers for financial and social affairs.

French government sources say Mr Jospin is also considering a new borrowing programme to promote European

Kohl lectured on reforms

Imre Karacs Bonn

Prime Minister Tony Blair yesterday sought to convert Helmut Kohl to the cause of reformism

In his first official meeting with the German Chancellor, Mr Blair subjected his host to a lecture on monetary union and the need to galvanise the continent's faltering economies. On the day that German unemployment figures registered a leap of 50,000, the Prime Minister canvassed his host's support for a radical overhaul of Europe's jobs market.

"Above all, I want a new approach to Europe," Mr Blair wrote in an article published yesterday on the front page of Bild Zeitung, Germany's leading

At his meeting with the German Chancellor, Mr Blair asked for his help to get the British blue-print for a flexible European workforce into the revised Maastricht treaty. Chancellor Kohl, in charge of a right-ofto prefer the Blairite version to remote from his people.

the programme co-sponsored by the French Socialists and the German Social Democrats.

At a joint appearance before their meeting in Bonn, Mr Blair said he was "working very hard" to ensure that the Inter-gov ernmental Conference will wind up successfully at the Amsterdam summit later this month. He vowed to strive for "warm and strong relations between Britain and Germany".

There were, however, many areas of disagreement. Britain was concerned over the fate of Eurofighter, a multi-purpose aircraft to be built by four EU

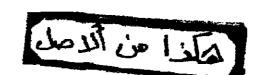
Mr Blair also tried to enlist Mr Kohl's help in the football wars. The English Football Association's campaign for the right to stage the World Cup in 2006 was recently described by the footballer "Kaiser" Franz Beckenbauer as a "stab in the back". In this heated climate, it is hard to see how Mr Kohl could help. Any German leader caught backing the English against German footballers would lay himcentre-government, was said self open to a charge of being



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Lionel Jospin yesterday

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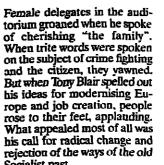


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Socialist past.
Lionel Jospin, Europe's other brand-new Socialist leader, also raised applause when he spoke yesterday to the Euro-pean Socialists' Congress in the Swedish city of Malmo. And, unlike Mr Blair, Mr

Jospin raised some laughs, admitting that nobody was as surprised as him to have seen the Socialists swept to victory in last Sunday's French elections. But it was Mr Blair who caught the mood of the moment yesterday. while Mr Jospin's vision of the future appeared to leave people cold.

There was puzzlement and even fear at some of the French Prime Minister's policy pro-posals which seem to hark back to the past. And Mr Blair himself seemed keen to keep a distance from Mr Jospin - failing to congratulate him in his speech, whereas the French Prime Minister showered Mr Blair with warm praise.

It was a perfect opportunity vesterday for Europeans to hear their two newest Socialist leaders set out their respective visions of the future and to test the differences.

The two men, of course. struck many similar themes. This was a joyous occasion for Europe's Socialists riding a wave of excitement and enjoying their new supremacy on the European political stage.

Both leaders determined to demonstrate they were part of the same "happy political family", spoke of social equality. Both warned that Europe had become remote from its people and both recognised the paramount need to answer the unemployment crisis which has led to 18 million unemployed in the European Union.

But it was Mr Blair who touched the mood of the moment with his forthright dismissal of old "statist" ways and his outright rebuttal of regulation or state control as the solution to Europe's problems.

Instead he spoke of a "third way" by which government should work to "empower" peo-ple to develop their own skills in order to stand up to the forces of change. Even on the question of the Social Chapter his caution and warnings found little resistance. Mr Blair told his audience that minimum standards of social provision were vital but not if they hindered job creation or led to red tape.

Blair's vision was welcomed in the corridors outside. "From the substance of what I have heard, I very much like Tony Blair's vision of change," said Karel Van Miert, Europe's Commissioner for the Single Market, "Blair says we must not look backwards. We must place an emphasis on education and skills, that is all good."

Dutch leaders embraced Mr Blair's philosophy which they believe they in the Netherlands are already implementing with widespread success. "On flexible job markets and minimum standards for social provision, we are already forging ahead," said one senior Dutch official. Tony Blair's vision is in line with ours," he added.

Mr Blair's message went down well, too, with German Socialist delegates. "We prefer the pragmatic Blair approach," said Barbara Weiler, a member of the European Parliament for the German Socialists, the SPD. "We have already shifted our thinking towards the Blair approach in many respects in our party."

Mr Jospin, as predicted, placed greater emphasis on the



late and control the economy in order to direct the changes caused by globalisation. "The market has to be regulated. Its forces have to be channelled so the energy generated can help produce investment, to produce growth," he said.

Such comments, though not explicitly calling for a return to the interventionist ways of the old left, nevertheless produced fears that France would not be able to take a lead in Europe's Mr Van Miert said: "I feel

some turbulence when I listen to Mr Jospin." Ad Melkert, the Dutch Social Affairs Minister said: "I preferred listening to Mr Blair, whose message was to keep the status quo.

More worrying to those lis-tening to Mr Jospin, perhaps, was the emphasis he seemed to place on the role of the nationstate. Europe, the French Prime Minister suggested, should have less role in the future in directing economic affairs, and he declared the state to be the "core of European democracy".

Mr Blair, meanwhile, showed a clear recognition of the need for European instruments in key areas of policy, particularly in the field of employment. One Belgian minister commented: "Mr Jospin's words have puzzled us. Does he want to renationalise policy in the economic field, is that what he means?"

Few at the congress wanted to play up the differences between the two men, many French delegates insisted the visions were "complementary". Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister, spoke guardedly of differences in "nuance", but it was clear that not only amongst the northern Europeans but also amongst the new Labourites of Portugal, Italy and even Spain, Mr Blair's words struck more of a chord.

Delegates warned that Mr Blair still needed to prove that his changes could come to fruition in his own country before real faith could be placed in his leadership qualities in the rest of the European Union. But Mr Blair himself must have left the congress well aware that it was his speech which won a standing ovation and not that of Mr Jospin.

Asked whether Mr Blair could become the first British leader to take a truly central role on the European stage, many delegates replied; "In time,

German left (out)

Rudolf Scharping of Germany, leader of the Party of European Socialists, said socialism has as many faces as there are socialist parties in Europe. "But overall it's the same idea: defend the people's right, be close to the people. "It was not such a long time ago that people were saying the whole idea of socialism was out-of-date," he told the opening session of the Socialist get-together.

But now, "we have become so strong in Europe that cannot allow ourselves the luxury of behaving like an opposition party."

Germany is one of only two countries in Europe where the left plays no role in government.

All bets are off for Canada's Hong Kong Chinese

Tim Cornwell in Vancouver reports on a divided community

Only the seagulls are awake at 4.30am, along with a couple of prostitutes and all-night drunks, on the main road through Vancouver's seedy east side.

But inside the club house at the Hastings Park race course. three or four hundred people are gathered, braving the glare of stark fluorescent lights for a live taste of home.

On the other side of the Pacific, 15 hours ahead, the races at the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club are just getting under way in front of a crowd of

Here, people cluster round the television screens in the halfempty hall, where the commentary comes in a clipped British accent. In the smoky, crowded Pacific Rim lounge upstairs, it is in Cantonese. Hastings Park runs a live telecast from Happy Valley twice a week. On weekend evenings, the

races start at a more civilised Canadian hour and the place is packed. Wednesday mornings are for the diehards, betting about £200 a night.
There are a score of punters

armed with cell phones, said to be placing telebets in Hong Kong. "It brings back the old memories," said Peter, 42, who went to the races every week before he emigrated in 1985: "I want to see the jockeys after the races. I want to see the people, how they react.

A Canadian citizen, he comes straight from his late shift with British Columbia's telephone

company. On the surface, Vancouver's community of about 250,000 ethnic Chinese is thriving, boosted by a massive influx of wealthy emigrés from Hong Kong. In a sign of its emergence on the Pacific Rim, the city will host

the Apec Asian economic meeting this summer. Greater Vancouver brags of showcase shopping malls in Richmond, wealthy Chinese suburbanites three - two from Vancouver,

shop for electric rice cookers and Gucci sunglasses. The su-permarkets offer specials on giant geoduck clams, the slug-like monsters once derided as

in Asian markets. Several Chinese-Canadian candidates were running in the 2 June national elections. The number of Chinese Canadians near the city's airport, where in parliament rose from one to

worthless by local fishermen

which now fetch gourmet prices

Liberal coalition.

The handover in Hong Kong is testing a young community, uncertain whether it is Canadian or Asian. "Now is the time to decide whether to go back or settle down," said Paul Tsang, managing editor of Sing Tao, the Vancouver edition of a Hong Kong daily that competes with two other Chinese-language newspapers, cable and radio sta-

The number of Chinese immigrants arriving in Canada accelerated after Tiananmen. The relatively liberal immigra-tion laws require only about a US \$250,000 (£150,000) local investment to qualify for residence. In 1992, 55,000 people from Hong Kong, Taiwan and China arrived in Canada. In 1994 about 20,000, mostly from Hong Kong, settled in Van-

Now the flow has declined. Thousands of Chinese, armed with their Canadian passports, are said to be returning to Hong Kong, though accurate figures are not available.

New tax laws that require residents to declare their worldwide assets are blamed by some. But while Canada offers peace of mind and low house prices. Chinese-speakers struggle in a weak job market and an economy that grew only 1 per cent es will still be running."

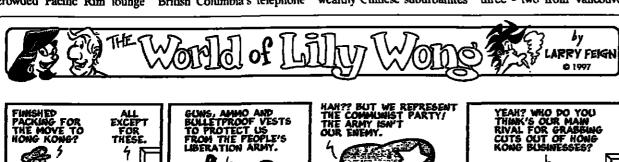
Long-distance passion: A loser at the races in Hong Kong, which many Chinese-Canadians follow twice a week on live television from the other side of the Pacific Rim, in Vancouver

Photograph: Tom Pilston

last year. There are big salaries to be made in Hong Kong. Many families seem in dan-

ger of coming apart at the seams. A plaintive letter in an advice column run by Sing Tao told a familiar story. They had moved from Hong Kong after Tiananmen, the writer explained, and her husband became an "astronaut", the nickname for businessmen who settled families in the US or Canada and continued to work in Asia. As she settled down in Vancouver, he began spending more time in Hong Kong. On his rare visits he spoiled the children and they were becoming "quite unreasonable". Now he talked of moving the family back. "At the beginning I didn't actually want to come. Now if he wants me to go, I have to go, but this is not what I want." She ended: "What should I do?"

At Hastings Park, Fred Lam is debating his next move. In the country 18 years, a racehorse trainer whose family also owns an Asian import-export business, he has been offered the chance to run horses in Hong Kong. Vancouver's race circuit is small and unexciting compared with Happy Valley. In mainland China, at least one race- course is under construction. "I've been away so long," he said, "but as an opportuni-ty it's better." Hong Kong is like a gold mine for China, so why should it change? he asked. The Jockey Club would still be open after the handover: "The hors-



China bursts share bubble gling to rein in stockmarkets Last month, another raft of since the beginning of 1997.

Teresa Poole Peking

Days after China's top banker described the country's overheated stockmarkets as "bubble" markets, the government has renewed its attempt to reduce the flood of speculative cash piling into mainland shares.

The stockmarkets in Shanghai and Shenzhen slid sharply yesterday, as investors digested the announcement giving banks 10 days to sell any shares they hold, hanning any further purchases and curbing lending.

For six months, the Chinese authorities have been strugwhere many share prices have lost touch with reality.

The shock treatment started last December, with a warning in the People's Daily that share price levels "make us think of the stock crash in America in 1929". A daily limit of 10 per cent was imposed on share price movements.

That failed to have an effect and between January and May this year the domestic markets gained a further 50 per cent, fuelled by individual investors and state institutions illegally putting money that was often borrowed into the markets.

rules was announced, aimed at stemming those funds by curbing share-trading by state-owned

and listed companies. Apart from instability in the financial system, the Chinese government fears any "correcleave many private investors market," he warned. badly burned and very angry.

The private Chinese appetite for shares remains huge, and the governor of the People's Bank of China, Dai Xianglong, this week estimated that small-scale investors had pumped 60 billion yuan (nearly £5bn) into the two domestic stockmarkets

Some 4 million new private investors opened accounts during that period, bringing the total to around 25 million.

Mr Dai repeated that prices had been going up too fast. "When the market grows too tion" to the frothy market would rapidly, it becomes a bubble

Market regulators have repeatedly tried to stop banks lending to state-owned enterprises and securities firms, knowing that they would use the money to play the markets. The new measures, if enforced, should dry up a large part of the

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Wanted: model capitalists for the Blair era

It must be a bit hard for the average senior executive, adjusting to the New Era. At first sight there seems a rather thin line between ritual humiliation on the steps of the National Heritage Department and being appointed to a plum government job. Why are some business leaders held up as models of dynamism, while others are denounced as fat cats? Corporate Britain could be forgiven for being bemused as it tries to come to grips with what makes a model Blairite capitalist.

It is obviously not just a matter of being one of us". Of course it helps if you endorsed Tony Blair before the election: you might have featured with Sir Terence Conran and Anita Roddick in a Labour election broadcast, But Sir David Simon and Richard Branson, for example, withheld their explicit approval. And the BP boss became the first Labour minister not actually to be a member of the party, while the Virgin balloonist is one of the driving forces behind the Government's policy on the National Lottery, seeking not-for-profit revenge for failing to win the franchise in the first place.

It is not, on the other side of the coin, just a matter of being caught in possession of a monopoly or a privatised company. It did not help the Camelot directors that they are running a state-licensed franchise with the word National in its name. Nor does it help

the water and rail bosses that their businesses were in the public sector and Labour still theoretically thinks that is where they belong. But other monopolists and privateers have basked in the new government's approval. Rupert Murdoch may not yet be plenipotentiary ambassador for world affairs, but his anti-competitive practices have not landed him on Chris Smith's doorstep with a requirement to explain his failure to pay UK taxes. Sir lain Vallance may be engaged in a minor run-in with the Chancellor over BT's enthusiastic desire not to assist him in taking 250,000 names off the unemployment register, but when Mr Blair wants to sound like a Net-capable future-monger he is on the phone.

What is closer to the truth is that some business leaders are popular and others are not. New Labour is well-attuned to the finer nuances of public opinion. In the case of Mr Murdoch, it shows an unsentimental grasp of the mechanics of public relations. There is a paradox here in that public opprobrium is reserved particularly for the people who run the services that affect the populace most the Lottery, electricity, gas, water and transport - whereas there is respectful curiosity about six- or seven-figure earnings for people who are Something in the City. However, there is a logic to the Government's attitude, although it is perhaps not well-articulated. Mr



Blair says he offers a new deal: he wants you to be successful, but you must give something back to society. He is not against profit, he is against selfishness. How well the Camelot directors played their role in their little morality tale! By threatening to resign rather than give up a penny of their bonuses, they lost the moral argument. They may have pulled a fast one yesterday, and hung on to their money, but they have slithered off the moral high ground.

The what? The high moral ground is unfamiliar territory for many businesses. For the past 18 years, the ethics of economics have tended towards profit maximisation within the law, keeping the do-gooding for your private life. It is in this moral universe that Tim Holley, David Rigg and Peter Murphy insist that their bonuses are good because they derive from their contracts.

We have now entered a different universe. Efficiency is not enough: you will be judged on your whole contribution to society. The remoralisation of public and corporate life is not quite consistent, as the Murdoch case illustrates, but the attempt is welcome and overdue. Since the Frys and the Cadburys, the business-philanthropic tradition in this country has been weak. These were not simply rich men who privately gave to charity. They ran successful businesses imbued with communitarian values.

The neo-liberal doctrine of profit max-imisation is not only morally coarse, but also economically simplistic. Business reputation is an important source of value: making customers and employees feel good helps the bottom line in the long run. Camelot may run a successful and efficient lottery, and its directors may have protected their own pockets, but they have failed to build a popular brand name and have no chance of renewing the franchise.

Good works are all too easily dismissed as "just public relations". But it is not only the new government which needs to understand how to use public relations as it tries to shift public values and change the way we feel about ourselves as a society. Even in America, there is more of an expectation that business leaders will fund good works to give back to their community.

The business leaders who have taken jobs with Mr Blair's administration are not motivated by money; they feel flattered, no doubt, but they are also inspired by a desire to serve the public interest. So, confused British executives who want to take up Mr Blair on his offer of partnership need to read up on the Prime Minister's Christian Socialist thoughts on rights and duties. It is not a question of what he can do for them, but what they can do for the rest of

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Save elephants from new slaughter

Sir: In line with Robin Cook's declaration that UK foreign policy should be guided by the twin principles of the environment and human rights, we strongly oppose the down-listing of elephants from Appendix I to Appendix II as proposed by Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia for the conference of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) to be held in Zimbabwe on 9-20 June. We urge the government to maintain Britain's support of elephant conservation at this critical time by voting in favour of the

ivory ban and the retention of elephants on Appendix I. The Appendix I listing has resulted in a dramatic decline in poaching in the majority of elephant range states and the stabilisation of elephant populations in many. It has led to a marked decline in the demand for ivory in the majority of range states and consuming states. It has removed the opportunity to launder poached ivory into the legal international trade. It has increased employment and economic benefits to communities, particularly though the development of wildlife-based tourism.

UK leadership was at the forefront of banning the ivory trade at the Cites conference in Lausanne 1989. It is critical to act now before thousands of elephants are

slaughtered once again.

Acceptance of the down-listing of elephant populations would result in a resurgence of poaching and a massive decline in elephant populations, the legitimisation of the international ivory trade, thereby encouraging ivory poachers and illegal traders, even with a zero quota, and the proliferation of firearms and

increased corruption. Many of the arguments advanced for down-listing are based on the concept of elephant over-population, in spite of considerable evidence to the contrary. Appendix I has been in effect for only seven years, an insufficient period in terms of elephant ecology to allow any viable consideration of resumed trade. The value of Zimbabwe's ivory stockpile gathered over seven years, even if applied solel; to conservation, would finance its wildlife department for only 15 weeks. By contrast, tourism earns for the same government 60 times the

value of the stockpile in one year. These huge and impressive animals have an intrinsic worth beyond any consideration of their ability to "pay their way in the global marketplace.

MIKE SMALL Centre for Continuing Education, University of SABA DOUGLAS-HAMILTON Save the Elephants, Natrobi, Kenya GLENTON COOMBES Senior Pilos, Lamu Region Kenya Wildlife Service ELSPETH MURRAY **BEN MURRAY**

Edinburgh

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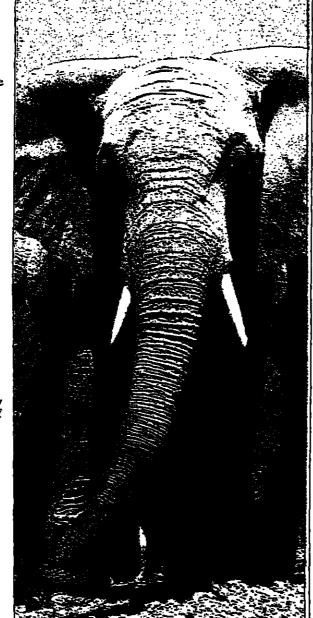
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Irish famine's legacy of bitterness

Sir: Nick Martin-Clark (Letters, 5 June) asks, in the debate about the Irish famine, if the then British government would have stood aside from a similar fate for English peasants. They probably would, given their laissez-faire-inspired indifference to working people which saw, for instance, ordinary

Mancunians in the same period having an average life-expectancy of 16, due to cholera. However, we should recognise that certain key events, such as the famine and Bloody Sunday, have shaped modern Irish perceptions and tarnished British-Irish relations, as I

argue in a Commons motion on the issue. It's also true that many republicans will probably never be satisfied with any British actions concerning the past or the present. But all reasonable efforts should be made to put a line under these tragic events and build on the strong and positive cultural and political links

that bind British and Irish people. Let's not forget that we get on very well and there is much mixing between us; many people in Britain have Irish roots or relatives. History, warts and all, should liberate but not shackle us.

HARRY BARNES MP (North East Derbyshire, Lab) House of Commons London SW1

Sir: The easiest way to kill debate on the Irish tragedy is to raise the apology question. It induces the simplistic response that this generation of British people cannot

apologise for the sins of their fathers. No one should confuse personal apologies with an admission by state authorities that its predecessors were responsible for a past wrong. No one is suggesting that Tony Blair or the Labour Party bear the slightest

responsibility for what happened. Helmut Kohl had nothing to do with the evils of the Nazi regime, but his

government continues to this day to pay war reparations for its victims.

The time has come for the British government to admit that the policies of its predecessor caused the virtual annihilation of the Irish people. Only good can come from that. Ruth Dudley Edwards ("No need to apologise for the potato famine", 3 June) fans the flames of racial hatred by her apologia for the rulers of the

day. From that, evil will certainly

COLM MAC EOCHAIDH

Sir: The chief cause of morbidity in Ireland from 1846 through 1849 was a series of epidemics of relapsing fever, a febrile infection transmitted by lice and bedbugs. Relapsing fever, and to a much lesser extent typhoid and infantile marasmus, are likely to have accounted for two-thirds of deaths in

Ireland during the famine years. There is no physiological connection between relapsing fever and malnutrition; it was frequently remarked at the time that however well fed, people were still dying of fever. The doctors, nurses and volunteer workers on the scene could do nothing to halt the epidemics, nor save those who became infected; many of the thousands of selfless people ministering to the hungry and sick themselves fell victim to relapsing fever. Since the common louse was not identified as the vector of the disease until 1891, nor bedbugs until 1927, there is nothing anyone could have done to save these lives. Professor REGINALD BYRON Department of Sociology and Anthropology University of Wales

Condoms on the Heath: it was us

Swansea

Sir: John Lyttle (30 May) accuses Rubberstuffers of haunting Hamostead Heath, handing out condoms, and Rubberstuffers deny it (letter, 4 June). Actually it's Gay Men Fighting AIDS. We admit it. We have done for five years now. We also give out health information as they leave, and do valuable research. Last year we had two papers accepted by the international conference on

We want the Heath to be safe and rewarding for all its users. So we provide one further service. Our volunteers organise "litter picnics" throughout the summer and collect bin bags full of rubbish. We hope that we leave the Heath a tidier place as well as a healthier one. Heath Project Worker Gay Men Fighting AIDS

AIDS in Vancouver.

London SW2

Sir: Much has been made, quite rightly, of the changed gender balance in the House of Commons

since the election, but why no comment on that other political revolution, the appointment of the first openly gay Cabinet minister?

proposed such an appointment as

The gay movement has long

cure for all ills. We were right. Within 24 hours of Chris Smith's being appointed Heritage Secretary, the UK had won the Eurovision Song Contest. The British Lions have won every game since his appointment. By beating Poland, England's footballers all but secured a place in the World Cup finals, and then beat Italy for the first time in 20 years. After their whitewash defeat of Australia in the Texaco series, England nearly skittled the visitors for 100 runs at

Edgbaston. Shame Chris Smith didn't get the health job which he so ably shadowed. We would not have been worrying about spiralling health costs; people would simply have got MICHAEL MASON

London SW7

Get on the buses if you can, Mr Prescott

Sir: Your front-page article "I'll get you on the bus, says Prescott" (6 June) moved even the most sceptical of us to have a go on public transport. Scuffles broke out at Shepherd's Bush as hundreds of environmentally conscious commuters, fired by his message, fought aboard the few

Mr Prescott should use public transport like us every day. He'll discover why the rich take taxis and/or use their noxious cars, and the poorer of us cannot get to work unless we skateboard. MARGARET OWEN London W14

overcrowded buses as the Central

Line (yes, again) broke down.

LETTER from THE EDITOR

parliamentary sketch this week, resolved something that has been wriggling round my skull in recent days, at various government seminars, parties and so on in Whitehall: what does this remind me of? What is the right historical parallel for New

too short to use his full name more than once), the Commons on Wednesday was Crom-wellian in feel, with Blair play-ing Lord Protector and Major the beheaded, ghostly king. The Conservative benches were portrayed as a sort of rump parliament of lewd and jocular

heckiers. Yes! We are living, Readers, Parliament. But what will it in the New Commonwealth a successor to the original Commonwealth, not to the politically-correct post-imperial club of the same name. Blair makes an excellent Oliver Cromwell: the stern, slightly forbidding sense of purpose; the muscular Christian moral tone; the not entirely convincing self-deprecation. The Palace has already queasily noted that he is behaving a little like a head of state. And if Cromwell had Ireton and

Naseby, well then, Blair has had Mandelson and Tatton. Cromwell, of course, would not have approved Blair's interest in the Roman Church, or his own image – remember the Protector's request to the painter Lely that he should be the not flatter me at all; but remark all these roughnesses, pimples, warts ..." He would have been baffled by Blair's guitar and would have declined to be sketched alongside such an immoral colonial as President Clinton.

But in politics, the two would have found much to nod about. If there is a single word that describes Blair's enthusiasm, with Jack Straw, for the more austere family values, his brisk enthusiasm for centralisation in Whitehall and his impatience with parliamentary obstruction, that word

is surely "Cromwellian". Their attitude to ideological Scots is similar: one can imagine Blair snarling at the Scottish Labour Party what Cromwell snarled at the Presbyterians: "I beseech you, in the bowels of

avid Aaronovitch, in a Christ, think it possible you may be mistaken.

What does the Commonwealth mean for Westminster? Blair's pre-election contempt for the Major parliament was notable. ("You have sat here too long for any good you have been doing. Depart, I say, and let us have done with you. In the name of God, go!") But, In 'Vitch's view (this letter is though this is less frequently noticed, his belief that MPs should "get real" and spend less time on political gossip is equally Oliverian. As the latter contemptuously informed MPs in 1658: "You have accounted yourselves happy on being environed with a great ditch from all the world beside."

So this is not great news for

Blair makes an excellent Cromwell: the stern sense of

purpose; the muscular Christian moral tone; the not entirely convincing self-deprecation

mean for the rest of us living in the New (Labour) Commonwealth? It is bad news for a free and licentious press. bad news for fat cats and bad news for some of those British fashion designers whose exotically lacy creations will mean they are forced to flee to the Continent. (Though, come to think of it, most of them have fled to Paris or Milan already.) It will be bad news for the Diggers, who will be cleared away by New Model Army police-

men (sorry, Swampy).

It is bad news for public drinkers and rowdy types. There will be no more public dancing, because we will all be hard at our patriotic duties. I guess the Globe, whose opening drama days we discuss this morning, will be shut down on a sex and violence rap.

How far can one push this? Not much further, I fear: just imagine what effect a new Cromwell would have on the Irish peace process.

Andrew Marr

QUOTE UNQUOTE

We never were downtrodden. We just kept quiet and let the female revolution wash over us - Paul de Vere, who conducted a nationwide survey on male attitudes

Bravo the French. People said they were indifferent but it's not true - Jack Lang, French Socialist politician, on his party's win at the polls The British don't understand that a good shower is one of life's basic essentials - a new guide to Britain from Lonely Planet

Jane Austen doesn't sell hi-tech cars. We do the past very well in this country but how can we compete from a hi-tech point of view when the rest of the world sees us dressed up in top hats and crinolines all the time? - Roger Puttnam, Jaguar's sales and

marketing director He was the Attila the Hun of the pillaging game. He was undoubtedly the the most prodigious thief this century- Peter Scott, friend

of George "Taters" Chatham, who died on Thursday aged 81 There are times when instead of saying "the body of Christ", I am tempted to say "Christ, what a body!". Do things in the right place. I don't want this practice to spread - Teodoro Bacani, a Roman Catholic bishop in the Philippines, on brides who wear revealing dresses in church

After 40 years in showbusiness I feel that I have finally cracked it. Appearing with the Spice Girls will give me enormous street cred - Richard Briers, veteran Shakespearean actor who is to play a bishop in the forthcoming film starring the pop group

Charity trustees and the law

Sir: In "Scandal of the parents' leaders" (5 June) Lucy Ward states that "under charity law, it is illegal to benefit financially from a trusteeship". That is a general rule of law subject to a well-known exception. If the constitution of a charity expressly permits payment of trustees, this overrides the general rule. The Charity Commission will accept such a charity for registration if the terms of the remuneration clause limit the remuneration to a reasonable sum for services undertaken by a trustee.

If there is no remuneration clause in the constitution of the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations, the former trustees should justify the unlawful payments.

If the Charity Commissioners are satisfied that they acted in good faith and beyond the call of duty, such that no reasonable person would have acted without payment, the Charity Commissioners may, depending upon the circumstances, decide to take no further action. Ultimately, the decision as to whether or not the payments were reasonable probably lies with any new trustees who took no part in the decision to pay the reasonable and justifiable. MOIRA PROTANI

S.J. Berwin & Co

London WC1

former trustees. Failing this, the paid trustees may apply to the court on the basis that the payments were Solicitor, Charities Group

Infected by a small mental parasite

Sir: Keith Williamson's "earworm" (letter, 5 June) is indeed known to science, and was described by Professor Richard Dawkins in his 1976 book The Selfish Gene under the name "meme". To quote Dawkins, a

a unit of cultural transmission, or a unit of imitation ... Memes propagate themselves in the meme pool by leaping from brain to brain ... When you plant a fertile meme in my mind you literally parasitise my brain, turning it into a vehicle for the meme's propagation." "Una Paloma Blanca" is a rather

minor mental parasite. STEPHEN LAFFERTY Bedford

Obstacles to a Jewish 'symbolic structure' on the streets of north London

Sir: There are moral, social, legal and technical questions involved in the north London ente proposal (Faith &

Reason, 31 May).
Is it right for a street authority to grant a licence to anybody to mark out with poles and wires an area socially, religiously and racially mixed, so that a section of the population should be enabled to ameliorate the effects of its own strict rules of Sabbath observance?

The perimeter is 12.5 miles, The "symbolic boundary" is typically formed by the permanent structures of private homes. Where there is a gap in these structures, such as at road junctions, the boundary is made continuous by "gates" comprising two poles, one on each side of the

street, each within 6m of the fence or wall of the adjacent property, the owner of which is called a "frontager". The poles support a wire strung across the road at a height of

about 20ft. Can this type of eruv be constructed without enabling legislation? Apart from the single case of war memorials (for which a special Act of Parliament was necessary) symbolic structures have

never been allowed on the public highways. Can the eruv be constructed without the effective consent of the

80 or so frontagers, who regard themselves as the primary victims of the proposal? Would an angry frontager who removed an unwanted pole from his boundary be a vandal or a civil rights demonstrator?

Behind Matthew Kalman's sneers at the "comfort-seeking residents of Hampstead Garden Suburb" lies the campaign to intimidate reasoned opponents by dubbing crus opposition as anti-Semitic. PHILIP KOSSOFF on behalf of a group of 29 Barnet residents London NW11

Sir. Fabian Acker's description (Jetters, 3 June) of pious Jews evading Sabbath laws by driving cars equipped with water-filled cushions is wholly fictional.

The eray boundary is a rabbinic law intended to remind Jews of the sanctity of their Sabbath as they walk through bustling public streets. No one has made arbitrary rules, attributed them to God or tried to fiddle their way around them. JONATHAN GORSKY Education Officer The Council of Christians and Jews

London WCI

Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fan: 8171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

political ministry. Tm use all its committed: halving poverty by important thing you can

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

The new Joan of Arc, or what? Steve Crawshaw spends a week with the saintly Clare Short, Secretary of State for

he strews optimism like brightly-coloured confetti on a summer's day. "Isn't it wonderful?" she keeps asking, as she talks of "beautiful opportunities" and "history going in a beautiful cycle". After a day of this optimism has washed over you, it becomes difficult to resist. Clare Short, the woman the

tabloids once loved to hate, now runs a ministry of her own. And, she wants the world to know, she is loving it. As Secretary of State for International Development, she is in charge of the country's most forgotten department - what used to be known as the Overseas Development Administration, often perceived as merely giving away "our" money to the rest of the world. a kind of lottery writ large. Ms Short clearly finds it astonishing that her department's work day, on to the next day and the is somehow regarded as less to the public.

She was sacked as shadow transport minister after being too outspoken. Now she says: "It is extraordinary that to go from transport to the future of the planet and its people and these high levels of poverty is mix is just beautiful." Her civil considered a demotion. But in servants seem ready to return

International Development, and is impressed as she sets to work on changing the world the pecking order of British the compliment, "It's very excitpolitics, it is. ing," says one official. Another The woman who famously says admiringly, in her presconfronted The Sun over Page ence: "It's frightening, to have Three girls, and who is now one the Secretary of State trying to

measure our progress towards

The main thrust of the paper

is likely to emphasise the idea

the things we want to do."

from a tough fight. She insists Ms Short and her advisers that Britain can help to spearare more than busy. This week, head change around the world. they were discussing the preparation of a White Paper on aid. Listening in to a string of her meetings this week - World Bank officials, an African She hopes to launch it with a fanfare, in time for it to enjoy finance minister, a Latin Amera "starring role" at the party conference in the autumn. The ican ambassador, media advisers, debt advisers, a non-stop idea sounds like a contradiction stream that is barely interin terms. But if anybody can rupted by a couple of early-afternoon Pret à Manger sandgive aid a starring role, then it must be Ms Short. wiches - the overwhelming

of Britain's most popular politi-

cians, is not likely to shy away

impression is of an enthusiasm

of "partnerships" with counwhich carries her through the tries receiving aid - and, above day after that. all, the idea that real and per-Ms Short, once herself a civil manent change can be achieved. She is scornful of servant, fairly gushes about any approach which fails to those now working for her. "You see what fabulous disattack the root causes of cussions we have here. They're poverty. "Elimination, not allespecial, the people here. viation" of poverty has become her buzz-word. Fantasy? There's this wonderful mix of Maybe. But it would be a brave experts and civil servants. The man or woman who would say so in her presence.

"History," she says, "has created an opportunity. History does move in eras ... We are beginning to see political change across the world. The ageing Sixties kids - which we are - are starting to come to power, in different countries." Taking as her starting point a report by the OECD, "the Rich Countries' Club", which argues that it would be possible to halve poverty by 2015, she wants to to do just that.

abour criticises the Con-

servatives for halving the level of aid over the past two decades. But - partly, no doubt, with a view to keeping Gordon Brown sweet - an increase in the departmental budget is not top of Ms Short's proclaimed agenda. She insists for more than quantity. Labour has pledged to more than double the level of aid to the 0.7 per cent of GNP recommended by the United Nations (the current level is 0.27 per cent). But she gets agitated if anyone starts pressing her for targets or deadines. Instead, she emphasises that increased aid does not in itself solve the problems. She says more money could, at one level, merely lead to more fiascos like the Pergau dam in Malaysia, where aid and trade were notoriously merged, more for the benefit of UK contractors than local people. "I am irritated with a lot of people who think it's the only question

about development. We could double our spend, and have more Pergan dams."

Her predecessor, "poor Lynda Chalker", was "a good woman, fallen among thieves." One constant problem for Baroness Chalker was that her department was subordinate to the Foreign Office, for whom commerce and realpolitik came first - hence, Pergau.

Theoretically, the new For-eign Office is now "ethical", so the game has changed. And Ms Short believes it is "phenome-nally important" that there is now a separate department, with its own Cabinet seat. "The Foreign Office have to look to Britain's short-term commercial and political interests ... Once you have said development is a key priority, you take siderations, and say we want to elevate development in its own

There will, she says, be "creative tensions". The Foreign Office, Treasury and others will sometimes have different concerus. But woe betide them, one suspects, if they try to put Clare Short in the corner.

Her unceremonious booting out as shadow transport secretary last year clearly still rankles. "It was public humiliation - and that is not a pleasant thing to happen to anyone." She insists, however, that it was the manner of the removal. not her place of exile, that offended her. "If, when I was asked to do transport [in 1995], I had been invited to do either transport or this, I would have chosen this. I love the portfolio. I want to stick with this for long enough so that it's absolutely bedded in. I'm determined that Britain will use all its influence everywhere to get the world committed to halving levels of poverty by 2015 - and going on to seek eradication of poverty. It's the most important thing

Clare Short may have

you can do.'

seemed to the "people who live in the dark" (her phrase) to be a danger for the carefully constructed unanimity of New Labour. From the outside, it seems the other way round. Clare Short, perceived as pily. And moves on.

Decent and Outspoken The department Human Being, is an asset that only one chunk of her life. Her the party can ill afford to dispense with. Even now, as a loyal government minister, her presence provides a guarantee that the party cannot get too arrogant or devious. She would be the first to cry foul. After last year's mauling, she received more than 2,000 let-

ters of support. ven now, she sees no need to button her lip.
At a meeting with colleagues from the Labour Party, she notes in passing the extravagance of some of the venues for government hospitality. "Lancaster House - it's a very big place. I think we should flog

jo brand's week

media warning lights start flashing among the Millbanktrained crowd around the table; they indicate to the minister that the journalistic fly-on-thesofa is still sitting across the room, notebook in hand. She looks up, startled - and grins.

Ask what she thinks about the continuing attempts of Labour's media-masters to keen loose cannon in the party under control, and she makes evasive comments, while her expression twitches at the thought of tossing out some honest and mischievous remark. Finally, she decides to be more or less discreet, for the moment. "You're trying to get me into trouble," she says hap-

The department remains

in-tray in her ministerial office includes a giant pile sent down by the constituency secretary in Birmingham Ladywood, whose MP she has been since 1983. She drives herself or takes the train to Birmingham for weekend constituency surgeries: while in Ladywood, she lives with her mother. Swimming with friends at the local pool remains a regular fixture. Then perhaps the cinema for escapist relaxation (Babe, the cute pigas-sheepdog fantasy, was a favourite last year, Trainspotting was not), followed by an Indian meal with friends. Reading is mostly boning up on international development. After it off." There is a frisson as the publicly sharing her happiness

at being reunited with her son Toby last year - an event which: triggered yet more public warmth towards her - she now asks for privacy in that regard.
But it is clear that mother and son remain close.

Even as Secretary of State, she sometimes still travels to work by bus, where she rubs shoulders with the man and, woman on the real Clapham. omnibus, the 77A. (She does not seem keen to talk about. this; media trivialisation, she seems to be muttering under her breath.) Standing in the morning bus queue is unlikely to remain part of the ministerial routine: because of some fabulously arcane Whitehall rules, she is allowed to take her scarlet dispatch boxes on trains, but not on buses. But, however she gets to work. Ms Short is determined not to become part of the chauffeur-driven otherworldly classes.

Asked about her current popularity, she tells a cautionary tale. "We were shopping in Sainsbury's with one of my sisters, for a family do. People kept coming up and saying nice 5 things. My sister said: "But : what will they be saying in two 4 years?" I said, that's right. But . the important thing is that I've : got to still be here - in Sains-bury's, on the train, on the street. If they're saying: "Huh! Not so pleased about that!", we need to hear that. I think the Tory government separated itself from the country in the end. It's lovely to be loved, and for people to be nice. But it's . also a responsibility. If you start ! to disappoint people, you've done something dreadful."

Botham joins Ball-by-ball Sporting Lite Cricket

Sporting Life

I was pleased to see Janet McTeer win an award in the US for her role in A Doll's House. I saw it in London and it restored my faith in West End theatre, which can be so unpredictable. Rave reviews don't necessarily mean anything. Another production I saw recently, described as "devastating", was the biggest load of old tosh I have sat through for a long time. A few actors off the telly and a lot of hype do not a devastating production make; and critics

are not always right, even if they are convinced they are. I am getting through the last two weeks of the tour and starting to feel slightly jaded. Did Leicester on Sunday evening, which proved to be a bit of a drunken affair, as it seemed the good burghers of Leicester - quite a few of them, at least - had been at the bottle for much of the beautifully sunny day and had taken to heckling.

Hecklers are not a uniform mob. They vary from sober and clever, to drunk and a total pain in the burn. We got the latter, and in this case, however many put-downs you do, the hecklers are so out of it that it makes no difference. The constant nonsensical

rubbish they come out with cannot be stopped by the usual approach, and a little extra encouragement to behave, from a big scary bloke (John, our tour manager), normally does the trick.

The phrase "care in the community" sounds so warm and elicits echoes of a rustic England when everyone knew and kept an eye on everyone else. Unfortunately, it has come to mean a substitute for decent care for those with mental health problems, because facilities are poor and staff are stretched. Added to that, a great proportion of the community does not want to care because it has swallowed the alarmist approach the tabloids take. drip-feeding us with images of machete-wielding wildmen. Thus, many centres for those with mental health problems are prevented from opening because of protest from the local community. I'm sure if you look at the statistics, you will find that the most dangerous potential assailants are not those living in a com-

I am not sure how Bill Clinton can actually carry on doing his

munity hostel, but probably

these children's own fathers.

job and not just crawl into a hole with a very red face, given the farcical events in the sexual harassment case against him. Paula Jones, who alleges he dropped his kecks in a Little

Rock hotel, insists she can identify his genital area because of "distinguishing characteristics". What on earth does she mean? Is it size? A birthmark? A hideous deformity? No wonder Bill doesn't want to take part in the strangest identity parade ever.

Did you know that Britain is second only to Germany in lawnmower ownership? Makes you proud, doesn't it, to know that compared with Italy or France, we are nearly up with the Germans in keeping our lawns trim. I think keeping your garden nice is a metaphor for other

areas of life, and to know that we can hold our heads up and say "we don't let our lawns get overgrown" places us right at the heart of Europe Sorry, just slipped into a Daily Mail editorial there.

Having seen a team of women find their way to the Pole this week, I feel somewhat ashamed to describe a oblem we had in Ipswich on Wednesday night. We had all been for a curry in town, and a three-vehicle convoy set off to find our hotel. John staved on the mobile phone as a hotel receptionist talked him through directions, à la air traffic control bringing in a crippled jumbo. Having circled a roundahout three or four times, we came to a crucial junction, at which point the phone cut out.

Luckily, further up the road, we spotted a very small wooden sign for the hotel, reversed the convoy back up the road and turned in - to find ourselves in someone's garden. Getting a group of two cars and a big van back out on to a country road is not easy, especially when you are giggling hysterically.

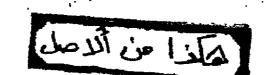
John and I are supposed to

be doing the RAC rally for charity this year. I predict we won't even find the start.

Baby Spice plummeting off her shoes has been big news this week, as it was when Naomi Campbell did a dive off her platforms at a fashion show. But women still totter round like stilt-walkers, damaging themselves and making themselves vulnerable – because if there's one thing you can't do in big shoes, it's run like bell from an attack. That's not Girl

Power, that's Girl Impotence. We women continue to swallow this line that it's unladylike or even proof of being a lesbian if you wear flat shoes like Doc Martens. I'm prepared to put up with that accusation, because at least my feet aren't killing me and I don't look like a bandy

sporting-life.com 1.15 We wish - let Large Galf 14-1; 2nd Source . 3000 Sporting Life (A) Plus Botham's great new Internet site http://www.sporting-life.com tie ultimate live sports Internet site



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he 16th century was an era of exploration and discovery. Men set out in leaky wooden boats, and traversed mighty oceans in search of terra incognita. One - Cristóforo Colún

(Columbus) – discovered America. And others, such as his namesake Mateo Colón a scientist at the University of Padua - paddled about with bodies hot and cold and discovered ... the clitoris. We owe this rediscovery of

the original clitoral pioneer to the Argentinian novelist Frederico Andahazi, whose prize-winning novel El Anatomista reconstructs Colón's voyage into the nether regions. It borrows heavily from Colón's De Re Anatomica ("let's start at the very beginning/a very good place to start ...") and indicates just how the scientist substituted the word 'clitoris" for the legend "here e dragons" on the

anatomical map of woman. So there we are. We know who discovered America. Australia, the Antarctic and the clitoris. True, a correspondent to this newspaper, Graeme Fife, revealed on Thursday that the Latin poet Juvenal had already made reference to the clitoris, though for some Roman reason he called it "cock's comb". But Mr Fife will allow that we then had to wait one-and-a-half millennia before the clitoris reappeared. So Juvenal's knowledge is a bit like Eric the Red's Vineland voyage;

quite manage to "discover" the thing properly (which may recount for the cock's comb). Well, of course, centuries before Columbus - or even Eric the Red - hundreds of thousands of Amerindians criss-crossed the prairies and pueblos of the "undiscovered" continent. They pitched their tepees on unknown lands, grew crops in virgin soil and drank from uncharted streams. They even had names for all these places (though many of them were

e went there, but he didn't

And my guess is that the same is probably true of the clitoris. From what little I know of that fabulous organ, I should imagine that - over the million or so years of

too long).

human history - a few women may have discovered it for themselves, even if only accidentally. After all, while it is quite feasible that the quinqueremes of Nineveh unable ever to travel more than a few miles from land might have missed America, the same geographical improbability hardly applies to the clitoris. I will say no

However, that is not what we have come to mean by "discovery". If we look at how the term is used, we see that it applies only under certain very precise circumstances. First, in general white men must do the discovering. There is a little latitude here, as in "the Chinese first used gunpowder", but only because we know perfectly well that they failed to "discover" it properly. If they had, then we would now be negotiating to get the Isle of Wight back from them.

Second, once they have found the thing, the white men must write it all up in scholarly fashion. This Amerindians and women both failed to do. Where are the Bigfoot maps of Montana? And I challenge the politically correct brigade to uncover one major tract written by a woman on the subject of the clitoris before, say, 1850. They just couldn't be fagged.

Finally - to qualify fully the discovery must be "useful", in the sense that the discoverer must be followed out to the thing discovered, by thousands of their fellow white men searching for riches, freedom and a reputation as a fantastic lay. All that then remains is the

battle over nomenclature. It

still rankles that the continent for which Columbus crossed the ocean blue was named after that johnny-come-lately Amerigo Vespucci (though we ought to be thankful that there is no such place as Vespuccia). And it is passing odd, is it not, that the clitoris doesn't hear the name of the man who first discovered it. If it did, then the sexual history of the 20th century might have been very different. And colonic irrigation would certainly have become even more popular with princesses than it is at the moment.

As worn at the fall of the House of Windsor

by Glenda Cooper

y lunchtime the queue stretched round the block, but the women waiting to see a collection of second-hand clothes didn't seem to mind,

"It's the mystique of her," said one. "It's a moment in a tragic history.

"It's like looking at a jacket with someone's blood on it or a bullet hole through it," another added. "Looking at these dresses, you're looking at the fall of the house of Windsor. Diana is a tragic figure."

The chiffon, the satin, the sequins - they were all vested in historical significance as visitors to Christie's in London this week waited to pore over the 79 gowns that Diana, Princess of Wales, is auctioning for charity in New York at the end of the month.

They crowded into a small room hung in royal purple and festooned with blown-up pictures of the Princess to look at the good, the bad and the downright fashion disasters that make up the life of Diana over the past 15 years, from the flounces and furbelows of Shy Di to the sleek armour of Diana the survivor.

Christie's has been averaging a thousand visitors a day nearly three a minute - who come to gaze reverentially at the Princess's cast-offs. Entry to the exhibition is conditional on buying a catalogue, the cheapest version of which is £30. By Wednesday, more than a million dollars had been made on catalogues alone. All 250 of the limited-edition £1,250 catalogues, leatherbound and signed by the Princess, have been snapped up, and the £150 canvas-bound ones are also selling well.

Christie's is not putting a reserve price on any of the dresses, but the sale is expected to raise £4m. The two dresses that have excited the most interest are lot 80, a Victor Edelstein in oyster satin, which Diana models on the front of the catalogue, and lot 2, the wisp of black chiffon that Diana wore on the night of her husband's public admission of adultery, which swept her husband off the front pages in spectacular fashion. "The dress caused an awful lot of comment at the time and subsequently," the catalogue comments dryly, "not only for its daring asym-

metrical ruching."
The Princess has said that she hopes whoever buys the dresses will get as much enjoyment out of them as she did. While institutions and museums may be interested, word leaked out last week that several leading members of New York's drag queen community have expressed an interest.



afford a dress to Di for although some had spent considerable amounts of money to get to London. Rather, they wanted to pay their respects to Diana their heroine. It would be enough to make the Prince of Wales guash his royal teeth if he could see the reverence that his ex-wife still inspires. Here was tribute to Diana of the Sorrows, St Diana of Chelsea Harbour. Despite the "do not touch" signs, surreptious hands reached out. If we were living in more superstitious times, one could imagine every community having a few threads to work signs and

wonders. "I came because I admire her so much," said Phyllis Okenyi. "I think she's wonderful. She does so much for charity. She's a wonderful mother - the way she's brought

Mrs Okenyl and her friend Thelma Hyde had taken the day off work and travelled down from Yorkshire, at a cost of £60. Add to that the £150 that Mrs Okenyl's husband had spent on the catalogue for her, and it's a fair sum to see some dresses you have no chance of buying.

She wasn't the only one. Women had travelled from Pembrokeshire and Cardiff as well as Essex, or had simply popped in during their lunch hour. "It's a once in a lifetime

opportunity," said Barbara Reeves, summing up the general feeling. "There would be no one else who would get this kind of reaction - certainly not anyone else in the Royal Family. It's a mixture of things: the fairy-tale that isn't, the experiences she had, and the wonderful dress she wore the night up her family and the way of Charles's documentary-that she's come through all her was really making a statement."



Fit for a heroine: thousands of Di's fans have come to Christie's to wonder at her wardrobe

They crowded into a small room to look at the good, the bad and the downright fashion disasters that make up the life of Diana over the past 15 years

Would people have crowded so much to see Diana's furniture or other possessions?

Dr Halla Beloff, a social psychologist in Edinburgh, said the interest in her gowns reflects the importance that we attach to clothes. "It's the function of clothes to show the world who we are, or who we would like them to think we are. That may be relatively near what we are, or not."

'Clothes are very intimate.' added Dr Martin Skinner, lecturer in psychology at Warwick University. "They have been on her body. They have been owned by her, chosen by her because they represent something to her. They are associated with her, and her physical presence makes them more special than, say, her house or

her other possessions." Some of the women didn't like the thought of someone else wearing Diana's clothes. "Who could carry it off better?" said Phyllis Okenyl.

"Who else could wear purple

She's a superstar. queens in America want to buy them," said Ann Harting from Hambledon, who had bought the catalogue for her daughter as a present. "I just don't think that would be right to see her dresses on them.

and pink together, I ask you?

"I suppose wealthy people might buy them to try to acquire a bit of her mystique, or if they have wonderful figures," said Maxine Knight of Pembrokeshire. "I don't think I could get my left thigh into one of them!

A few streets away in the

local Oxfam shop, the assistant said pleasantly that while anyone's clothes were welcomed. "I hear some of those drag the price fixing guide indicated only the condition of the clothes and the sort of fabric, and not the status of the owner. Yes, there was a nice red one from Next which wasn't that far distant from lot 14, a dance dress by Bruce Oldfield, for £7.99 in size 8, "What's the difference?" he asked. "They've both been owned by someone

> Dr Skinner disagrees: "It is like the story of the woman in the Bible, where she did not try to touch Jesus, just the hem of his cloak. Clothes have that much power."

Africa's destiny in its own hands

A new form of colonialism may be right for the regional powers of the continent, says Trevor Phillips

frica strode across our stage several times empire offered the this week, both literally and figuratively, and did so with a confidence that we have not associated with the continent for many years. Let us leave the depressing bit - Sierra Leone - out of consideration for the moment, and turn our attention to a joyously liberating event taking place in Hackney during the next week or so. Les Ballets Africains, the national dance company of Guinea, have taken their hugely physical, rhythmic and colourful show Heritage to the

Hackney Empire theatre. It is an astonishing show. The 35 dancers and musicians transform a rather banal series of episodes which (I think) concern a young musician's wanderings into a pulsating two-hour roller-coaster ride. The music makes you want to get up and dance. The sight of the dancers' perfectly honed, athletic bodies, male and female, remind you how pathetic your own shambling efforts would look next to what's happening on the stage. Yet this is not just a soupedup African version of morris dancing. It is truly ballet in that it is stylised, and has a clear physical language that works with the musical narrative brilliantly. But art aside, what you see here is the New Africa prophesied by Nelson Mandela. The young performers swagger across the stage with no attempt to validate their work in European terms, and they offer no compromises to classical dance. But they are not frozen in aspic; the men, who seem to fly through the air, also throw in some American-style break dancing, almost without breaking sweat. It is great, and it gives a flavour of what Africa could be talented, unapologetic and whinge-free. That is what a really independent, post-colonial Africa

The irony of this taking place at the Hackney would feel like. Empire strikes you as you walk through the Edwardian columns and hallways of the theatre. When it opened in 1901, the word empire carried a different meaning. Far from being jingoistic and oppressive, for many young Britons the

prospect of freedom. of adventure and discovery. There were still parts of the world where the stuffy norms of the post-Victorian era did not apply and where young men (and a few women) could reject their parents' rules. And then there were riches beyond imagination. The problem was, of course that in most of the places the youth of Europe wanted to exercise their freedoms there were already norms in operation, and the riches involved usually belonged to

someone else. Never mind. Colonialism did its thing, and in Africa, the tradition of The Big Man helped in the humiliation. Even now, to get a decision in much

even a minor government functionary's patronfunctionary. Often, age and approval exceeds that often ascribed to such as Ivory Coast, Gabon and Senegal quickly Peter Mandelson. Whole populations would accept that their destinies could be determined by the wishes of a single man, who happened to

be called the equivalent of chief. Thus colonialists, though backed by the gun and the Bible, were able to persuade the major-



happen without the Les Ballets Africains, currently at the Hackney with this kind of say-so of some key Empire, embodies a new African confidence

pendence, favours granted to Big Men led to the disgrace of Zaire and Amin's Uganda, And the failure to set up anything resembling a modern state left countries like Mozambigue with illiteracy rates, at independence, of more than 90 per cent. How could places legacy ever compete? There is an

their new order was

merely an extension

of the historic tradi-

tion of deference to

Big Men. Inevitably, colo-

nialism's greed killed

the goose that laid the golden egg. The

crude carve-up of the

African map in Benin

in 1884 drew a series

of borders that artifi-

cially split clans, king-

doms and tribes, and

set up the tensions

we see in Rwanda-

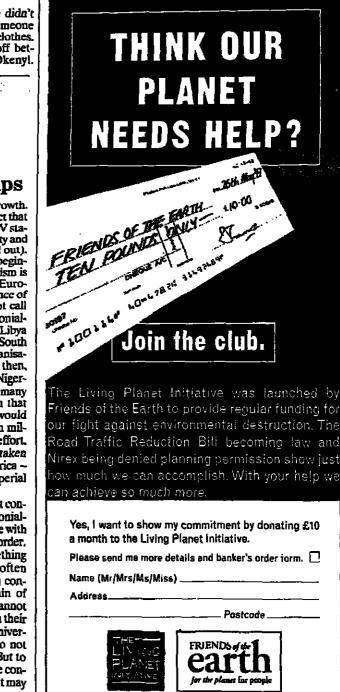
Burundi. After inde-

made it clear that though they had cut the formal ties, they intended to stay close to the power of Paris. They benefited hugely in terms of economic stability. In the South, Botswana took a less aggressive line towards the regional power, South Africa, and as a consequence has enjoyed in order to make progress.

ity of Africans that decades of tranquillity and relative growth. (There is an alternative explanation: the fact that Botswana has always refused to set up a TV sta-tion may also have contributed to its stability and high educational standards; the jury's still out).

As a result, some African thinkers are beginning to ask, in whispers, whether colonialism is such a terrible thing. No one wants the Euro-peans to come back. But with the emergence of a group of less poor nations - you cannot call them rich - the possibility of African colonialism is being talked about. Kenya, Nigeria, Libya (which sees itself as an African power) and South Africa are the senior partners in the Organisation of African Unity. It was no surprise, then, that the OAU backed what was in effect a Nigerian invasion of stricken Sierra Leone. In many ways, this was the sort of decisive action that Europe should have taken in Bosnia. It would have been perfect had the Nigerians been militarily competent. However, they made an effort. The point is that the regional power has taken responsibility for the disaster in West Africa precisely the sort of responsibility that imperial nations would have exercised in the past.

There is a logic to all this. Africans cannot continue to complain about the legacy of colonialism and the unfairness of the terms of trade with the rest of the world without some internal order, Currently, the Western obsession is something called democracy, though it is not often explained what this means in the African context; most of the nations which complain of Africa's despots are run by people who cannot claim to have attracted a majority of votes in their own elections. Yes, we would all like a universal franchise to operate freely; no, we do not approve of corruption and intimidation. But to achieve the stable environment which these conditions need may take some drastic action. It may be in Africa's own hands, if its people are prepared to accept that for some time at least they may have to surrender some national sovereignty



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Alfred Hershey

Alfred Hershey and his friends ity. In order independently to wasn't too impressed by the reMax Delbrück and Salvatore follow the fate of these two comsults myself," he said. "But of sults myself," he said. "But of Luria shared the 1969 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medisearch in the 1940s and early 1950s which established bacterial viruses (or phage) as a powerful experimental system to explore the molecular basis

These three were the founder members of the "phage school" and played quite different roles in this rather nebulous movement. Delbrück was its guru and driving force, Luria the ideas man, while Hershey was the consummate professional, whose work combined acute scientific insight with innovatory experimental skill,

Hershey was born in Michigan, in 1908, received his department of the Washington University Medical School in St Louis from 1934 to 1950. He then joined the staff of the Carnegie Institution of Washington in its Genetics Research Unit located in the old whaling port of Cold Spring Harbour, lying about 30 miles from New York on the north shore of Long Island. He was to spend the rest of his life there, becoming Director of the unit in 1962 until his retirement in 1974, and then continuing to live there with his wife Jill in a house just above the Cold Spring Harbour

laboratories. There is a particular experi-ment of Hershey's that will go down as one of the seminal bi-ological contributions of this century. This is the so-called Hershey-Chase experiment (Martha Chase was Hershey's research assistant at the time), which was instrumental in convincing the scientific community that genes were made of nucleic

As late as 1952 there was still a fierce debate going on as to whether it was a protein or nucleic acid component of living organisms which constituted the genetic material. Hershey considered that the phage system was an ideal one with which to study this question and he and Chase began a study of the contributions of the protein

ponents during phage infec-tion they labelled the proteins cine for their pioneering re- with radioactive sulphur and the nucleic acids (in this case DNA)

with radioactive phosphorus. The doubly labelled phages were then allowed to absorb and infect sensitive bacterial cells. A short time later the culture was vigorously mixed using a high-speed blender. After a short centrifugation this blended culture was separated into two parts, the infected cells and the supernatant liquid, and radioactive assays performed on

The results of these assays showed that 80 per cent of the phage proteins were sheared from the bacterial cell surfaces and found in the supernatant grees at Michigan State
University, and served on the faculty of the Bacteriology Dewhich despite the blending were still able to go on and produce

new phage progeny.

Hershey and Chase suggested that the most plausible interpretation of these results was that the role of the phage proteins was to encapsulate and protect the phage DNA, to mediate the attachment of the phage to sensitive bacteria, and to act rather like a syringe that squirts the DNA into the host cells. On the other hand, the DNA was the material of heredity and determined the growth characteristics of the infected cells as well as the genetic make-up of the progeny phage.

The results of this experiment were published in 1952, and the paper was enormously influential in convincing biologists that nucleic acid and not protein comprised the genetic material, and in a remarkably short time this became the accepted

In retrospect it seems surprising that the conclusions of the paper were accepted so readily, as the results showed that 20 per cent of the phage protein did stay with the infected cells after blending and could have crucially influenced the infective process. While reflecting on this experiment some years after he had retired. Hershey acknowledged that he had been surprised by the short

course the reason for its final acceptance was the beautiful structure of DNA that came up soon after this time, in 1953, which made DNA so irresistible intellectually, whatever the facts might be."

Nothing Hershey worked on either before or after 1952 matched the impact of the blender experiment, but throughout his career he broke new ground in a great variety of disciplines. He initiated "suicide experiments", whereby the lethal effects of radioactive decay occurring in different parts of a micro-organism could be studied. He also performed some of the earliest experiments which demonstrated that genetic recombination could take place during intracellular phage growth, a result which

was the forerunner of much of

the genetic engineering that

goes on today.

Then, following the blender experiment, he went on to demonstrate that viral growth occurs in two stages; the first being the replication of the nucleic acid and the synthesis of capsid proteins, and the second being their assembly into mature viruses. And in the later years he became a DNA physical chemist, examining the biophysical properties of phage DNA and showing that the molecules of heredity were long polymers of definite size; and he developed new ways of measuring the molecular weights of these long molecules and treating them in controlled ways so as to fractionate

the pieces.
In between all this he found time to edit the highly influen-tial book The Bacteriophage Lambda (1971) and for a time even flirted with theoretical studies on the population biology of recombining phage

An intriguing aspect of Al Hershey's research is that it was often in fields in which he had no experience or training. As he admitted, he was a born dilettante. When he was well into his seventies I taped a conversation with him in which he was reminiscing about his career, and in answer to a query as to what and nucleic acid components of time it took for the conclusions aspects had given him most phage particles to phage hered- of the paper to be accepted. "I satisfaction he thought for a

while and replied: "I can't

distinguish too much.
"Of course I was very excited by the blender experiment because I realised that other people were going to be excited by it. But as far as my own private interests were concerned I always liked what I was doing. Of course there are depressing periods when nothing appears to be happening. But whenever anything was happening, and even when nothing was happening, it was fun just to do phage

"Later when I began playing around at being a physical chemist I enjoyed very much doing work on the structure of DNA molecules, something which I would never have dreamed of doing before I started. But that's the nice thing about doing research. Whatever you do is novel, so you always have this sense of novelty even if you are only using a new gad-get. That's nothing to be proud of, but it's fun. And if you get some results with a new gadget, then it's doubly fun."

That's a joyous postscript to research career.

Hershey clearly enjoyed doing his own experiments and, al-though colleagues did spend time working in his laboratory, and he collaborated with them and with friends at other locations, he was never the centre of a large research group. His wide influence came partly as a result of his published research, but also through the many review articles he wrote over the years. These were classics of their kind with their mixture of critical assessment, insight and wit, and were a great source of education and enlightenment to generations of molecular biologists. Scientific conferences didn't

much appeal to him, and he attended very few. Also he didn't enjoy travelling. I think the only time he left America, apart from attending the Nobel celebrations in Stockholm, was a visit to one of the early phage meetings held just outside Paris in 1952. After the meeting he and Jill spent some weeks touring around Europe, but he never felt inclined to repeat the

Outside the laboratory his main relaxation was sailing. He owned a day-boat moored at Cold Spring Harbour, which he and Jill sailed exuberantly in Long Island Bound, as many of their friends can testify. Also for many years he and Jill kept a sailing cruiser on the great lakes in North America where, sometimes accompanied by their son, Peter, they would spend a month each summer leisurely exploring the waterways, and where he would unwind before returning to the

After retirement Hershey gave up any direct involvement with research. His enthusiasms turned in other directions, particularly to classical music, which became more and more of a comfort as he grew older. Friends continued to visit him, and he was happy to talk about contemporary scientific ques-tions, but his interests were eisewhere.

He would however still sometimes appear at the garden parties which are a feature of the summer conferences at Cold Spring Harbour. Those old enough to know him would go up and pay their respects, and maybe share a joke and a beer, while the younger scientists would be told that the spare and frail figure on the lawn was the mythical Hershey. He was one of the last survivors of a different scientific

Hershey was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1958 and to the American Academy of Art and Sciences in 1959, and during his career received many scientific bonours in addition to his Nobel

Neville Symonds

Alfred Day Hershey, biochemist: born Oswosso, Michigan 4 December 1908; Assistanı Bacteriologist, Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, Missouri 1934-36, Instructor 1936-38, Assistant Professor 1938-42, Associate Professor 1942-50; staff, Genetics Research Unit (Department of Genetics), Carnegie Institution of Washington 1950-97, Director 1962-74; Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine (with Max Delbrück and Salvatore Loria) 1969; mar-ried 1945 Jill Davidson (one son); died Syosset, New York 22



Hershey: "It's fun. And if you get some results with a new gadget, then it's doubly fun'

Barton: "I am here only on urgent and personal business. I must ask you to leave at once

Eric Barton

bookselling fraternity, that of customer intimidation. Nobody better practised this agelong observance, poised on the knife-edge of querulousness and effrontery, of barring, by hook or by crook, any prospective browser from entering his shop. "We are closed, sir, closed." Barton would call out from his desk as the door was pushed open. "I am here only on urgent and personal business. I must ask you to leave at

In Barton's case this eccentricity, honed to a fine art, was deployed to test the seriousness of a collector who, if persistent and stout-hearted enough to force an entry into, again traditionally, chaotic premises, found himself confronted by an old-world courtesy divorced as far as it possibly could be from original, choleric, intolerance:

Eric Barton was perhaps the last upholder of a once-ingrained tradition in the antiquarian ephemeral nature – postcards, were rested on a walking-cane. Snow-white hair, such as there are postcards, was, was trained monthly by wicket. "No, no. With the great memorabilia of murder (he was magazines, posters, letters, memorabilia - extended into scholarship of a high order, especially in the poetry of Dylan Thomas and A.E. Housman and the life, as well as the writings, of Oscar Wilde.

Proprietorship of the Baldur Bookshop, Richmond, a Surrey landmark over which he had autocratically presided since 1936, had brought him in touch with a fair number of distinguished figures in all walks of ife on whom he was prepared to discourse in the most genial and entertaining manner imaginable. At Lord's, as an MCC mem-

in front of the pavilion on the Tavern side. Here, a raincoat of unambitious cut concealed an oppositionally dashing ensemble: lemon-yellow jacket, lessly raked the field of play sharply pressed trousers. Hands with his binoculars. "Who's

reservation Indian: promising freedom and

delight and delivering only a choking

swamp of self-pity. It is obviously too late

for any serious revisionist attempt to as-

sociate Celtic spirituality with such things

as mistletoe and human sacrifices burned

alive in wicker baskets. But there is no need

to acquiesce in silence to what is going on.

We can at least point out what a strong

odour of lavender and health foods hangs

understanding the past. Most revolutions are actually created by people who want

to return to some golden age; without an idea of the purity of the early church, there

would have been no Reformation; with-

out the mythical Noble Savage there

might have been no Enlightenment. But

it is bard to see what use a dream of Celtic

spirituality does except to take people away from problems that need solving.

The Celtic church, you see, is supposed

to have been ecological, united, not hung

up on sex, ethnic, yet at the same time in-

ternational; and free of all hierarchies: it

is a long and glorious dream of adoles-

cence. What little we know about it sug-

gests something far more complicated.

Columba himself was the son and nephew

of kings. They may have been small-time

Irish kings, but it is still difficult to get more established than he was, in an era when

It is true that the Celtic church had lit-

tle hierarchy, but that is not because it was

opposed to nasty adult authority. The so-

power was personal and familial.

There need be nothing wrong in mis-

around the subject.

Trumper's of Curzon Street, est possible respect: which where aristocratic gossip was enthusiastically garnered. As much as the game in progress. Barton enjoyed observing his fellow members, not all of them - despite the club's exclusive reputation among those who have never spent a day at "Headquarters" - possessed of a similar suavity to his own: whom as they passed before him he would adroitly

Thackeray, Henry Green, Anthony Powell. Fading eyesight was eventuber, he occupied a favoured seat ally to rob him of the pleasures of the summer game, an affliction he bore with stoicism and great good-humour. "Tell me." he asked one day as he fruit-

and perceptively pigeonhole

with characters from his

favourite novelists, Dickens,

team?

Eric Barton was born in 1909 at Kew, the area of London he was to inhabit all his life, and was educated at Battersea Grammar School and University College London. Aged 18. he went to work for a publisher. Later he did a stint with the antiquarian firm of Dulau & Co, eventually setting up first in partnership, then, as befitted his independent spirit, on his

After the Second World War. which, excused from frontline service because of a perforated eardrum, he served with the Royal Army Medical Corps, shortage of capital deprived him of a distinguished library of French books which might have changed the course

with the ephemeral treasures he

a Jack the Ripper buff as w as an authority on the acid-bath murderer, John George Haig) - he had a closer affinity than with the grander, more mainstream, expensive landmarks of the printer's art.

This concentration on minutiae did not blind him to the necessity for public action on two important literary fronts: the preservation for the nation of Dylan Thomas's boathouse at Laugharne; and the erection of an LCC plaque on the Tite Street house of Oscar Wilde. Both enterprises were crowned with success.

Timothy d'Arch Smith Eric William Wild Barton, bookseller: born Ken; Surrey 7 May 1909; married 1948 Irina Rowlands-Wisbcach (two sons. of his bookselling career. Yet and one daughter deceased): died London 21 May 1997.

Births, **Marriages** & Deaths

BIRTHS

McCRYSTAL: On 3 June at Queen Charlotte's Hospital, to Amanda (née Evans) and Damien, a son (Kit Charles), a brother for Jemima.

DEATHS

TAYLOR: Henry Shearer, aged 76, much-loved husband of Liddy, father of six and grandfather of 10, on 28 May, peacefully, in St Mary's Hospice. Ulverston, Cumbria.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding amiversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, Council Serges Co. 1977 1 Canada Square, Canary Whart, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6,50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette an-nouncements inotices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or fixed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS TODAY. The Duke of York yeats HM Burk En-deaver and the Theatre Step Figurarials at Shore Street Ours, Inventors Harbour; attends a kin-chert ghen in the Protect of Inventors at the Toun Hall, Inventors, opens the Inventors Aquadoms, Bught Park, Inventors; and opens the new Offices of the Wanterly Royal Voluntary Service, Kenneth

Changing of the Guard TODAY The Household Carairy Mounted Reg-iment mounts the Oncen's Life Guards at Horse Guards, Harn. Ist Bartalon Scots Guards mounts the Oucces 3 Guard at Bartalon Rouse Jana TOMORROW. The Household Cavalry Mount-of Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 10km. 1st Battalon Scots Guards

TODAY: Lady Elizabeth Anson, party planner. 56; Mr Derek Barron, former chairman and chief executive, Ford Motor Co. 68; The Right Rev Michael Baughen, former Bishop of Chester, 67; Miss Ann Beach, acress and singer. 59; Sir Wilfred Cockcroft, chairman, Educational Project Resources, 74; Mr David Coleridge, for-mer chairman of Lloyd's, 65; Miss Elizabeth Counsell, actress, 55; Sir Murray Fox, former Lord Mayor of London, 85; Mr Martyn Goff, executive chairman, Sotheran's, 74; Mr James Ivory, film director, 69; Mr Peter Jones, former director, Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, 72; Mr Tom Jones, singer, 57; Mr Jaime Laredo, violinist, 56; Sir Eric McDowell, chairman, Capita Management Consultants, 72; Miss Virginin McKenna, actress, 66; Mr Prince Rogers Nelson ("Prince"), rock musician, 37; Mr Thomas Arfon Owen, former director, Welsh Arts Council, 64; Mr Michael Pennington, actor and writer, 54: Mr Ronald Pickup, actor, 57; Mr Neal Rolato Piesup, actor, 57; Mr rean Radford, cricketer, 40; Mr Jim Rose, former chairman, Penguin Books, 88; The Very Rev John A. Simpson, Dean of Canterbury, 64; Professor Sir William Stewart, former Chief Sci-entific Adviser, Cabinet Office, 62; Mr Norman Strucke appuller dem Mr Norman Strouse, popular composer, 69; Mr John Turner QC, former prime minister of Canada, 68; Mr Mark Young, trade union leader,

TOMORROW: Mr Colin Baker, actor, 54; Sir William Barlow, former chairman, BICC, 73; The Rev John Barrett, Headmaster, The Leys School, Cambridge, 54; Lord Campbell of Croy, former government min-ister. 76; Miss Lindka Cierach, dress designer, 45; Mr Michael Codron, theatrical producer, 67; Professor Alice Coleman, geographer, 74: Pro-fessor Francis Crick, biologist, 81; Mr Hugh Faulkner, Honorary Director. Persistent Virus Disease Research

government minister, 68; Sir lain Glidewell, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 73; Miss Gwen Harwood, poet, 77; Mr Ray Illingworth, chairman of the England cricket selectors, 65; Lord Kirkwood, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 65; Sir Michael Levey, former Director, National Gallery, 70; Lady Littler, former Director-General, IBA, 65; Miss Millicent Martin, actress and singer, 63; Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott, royal equerry, 74; Sir Ian Morrow, for-mer chairman, MAI, 85; Mr Tony mer charman, MAI, 85; Mr Iony Mottram, tennis player, 77; Mr Doug Mountjoy, snooker player, 55; Miss Alison Moyet, rock singer, 36; Mr Roger Murray, president, Cargill Europe, 61; Maj-Gen William Odling, President, English-Speaking Union, Eastern Counties, 88; Sir Eric Parker Schemmer, Carbon, Constal Parker, chairman, Graham Consult-ing, 64; Sir David Poole, High Court judge, 59; Lord Pritchard, former company chairman, 87; Brigadier Gael Ramsey, director, National Centre for Leadership. 55; Mr Nick Rhodes, rock keyboard player, 35; Sir Julian Ridsdale, former MP. 82; Miss Nancy Sinatra, 57; Dr Robert Stevens, Master, Pembroke College, Oxford, 64; Mr Martin Taylor, chief executive, Barclays Bank, 45; Mr John Thompson, former Director of Radio, IBA, 68; Mr Derek Underwood, cricketer, 52; Dame Anne Warburton, former diplomat, 70; Mr Graham Watson, literary agent, 84; Sir Alwyn Williams, former vice-chan-

Foundation, \$1; Earl Ferrers, former

ellor, Glasgow University, 76.

Anniversaries TODAY: Births: George Bryan "Beau" Brummel, dandy, 1778; En-gène Henri-Paul Gauguin, painter, 1848; Ernest William Hornung, novelist, 1866; Charles Rennie Mackintosh, architect, 1868; Elizabeth Bowen (Elizabeth Dorothea Cole), povelist, 1800 Deaths: Robert I (the Bruce), King of Scotland, 1329; Jean Harlow (Harlean Carpenter), ac-

tress, 1937; Dorothy Parker (Rothschild), poet and journalist, 1967; Edward Morgan Foster, novelist, 1970; Dennis Christopher George Potter, playwright and scriptwriter, 1994. On this day: King Henry VIII of England and King Francis I of France met at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, 1520; the Addled Parliament was dissolved. 1614: Britten's opera Peter Grimes was first produced, 1945. Today is the Feast Day of St Antony Gianelli, St Colman of Dromore, St Gottschalk, St Meriadoc or Meriasek, St Paul I of Constantinople, St Robert of Newminster, St Vulflagius or Wulphy

TOMORROW: Births: Robert Alexander Schumann, composer, 1810; Charles Reade, novelist, 1814; Sir John Everett Millais, painter, 1829; Frank Lloyd Wright, architect, 1869. Deaths: The Prophet Mohammed, 632; Thomas Paine, radical author. 1809; Mrs Sarah Siddons (Sarah Kemble), actress, 1831; Gerard Man-ley Hopkins, poet, 1889; Sir Norman Hartnell, royal dressmaker, 1979. On this day: the electric suction vacuumcleaner was patented, 1869; James Earl Ray was arrested in London and charged with the murder of Martin Luther King, 1968. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Cloud of Metz. St Maximinus of Aix, St Medard and St William of York or Thwayt.

Lectures TODAY

Victoria and Albert Museum: Lucy Pratt, "Tread Softly: shoes from the V&A collection", 2.30pm. British Museum: George Hart, "Ancient Faces: an introduction,

1.15pm. National Portrait Gallery: David King, "'I am an Ill-tempered Pig and Glory in It': W.S. Gilbert", 3pm. TOMORROW National Portrait Gallery: John K.D.

Cooper, "Mirrors in Art", 3pm.

The 1,400th anniversary of the death of St Columba is a timely opportunity to point faith preason out what a deeply pernicious influence Celtic spirituality has been. The word "Celtic" works upon the Anglo-Saxon imagination rather as whisky works on the

The romantic whimsy which surrounds modern accounts of Celtic spirituality is a far cry from the earthy reality of life on a sixth-century Scottish island, argues Andrew Brown.

The tale of Columba and the adolescents

cial conditions of the time did not really allow for the establishment of any large hierarchies: the collapse of the Roman Empire had shown what happened to them. But such power as could be exercised, was. Columba, as abbot of Iona, was firmly in charge of choosing the hishops for Scotland; while the disciplines and privations of the Celtic monastic life are hardly to be imagined. It may well be that living on scaweed, rainwater and the occasional fish is necessary to come close to God out on some battered skerry in the North Atlantic. But that is hardly what most modern people seem to mean

The only literary treatment I know that does justice to the strangeness and danger that those days must have had is also the least spiritual and the most frightening. T.H. White's The Sword in the Stone is not a very sentimental book in any of its parts, despite the best efforts of Walt Disney to turn it into an everyday tale of comforting magic. Even Disney would have recoiled from the other three books, which with it make up The Once and

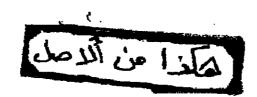
Future King. They tell the story of the destruction of Arthur by his Celtic relations.

The Queen of Air and Darkness opens with a scene in which Arthur's half-sister Morgause drops a live trussed cat into a cauldron of boiling water, for magical purposes. This has nothing to do with Christianity, but it may well be a more authentic expression of what the real inhabitants of those parts in those times were

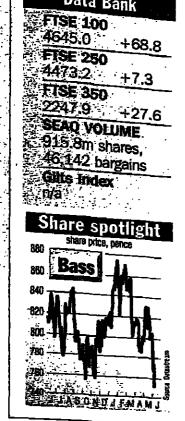
White was an Englishman, and the distinction he draws in his books between Celt and Saxon. Gael and Gaul, is not free of sentimentality. Nor was he sympathetic to Christianity: he seems to have taken its untruth for granted, so that the priests who appear in *The Once and Future King* are vicar-ish caricatures; and the Irish saints take time off from their hermitages to get drunk and hit people with shillelaghs. But he did understand the pressures of darkness and confusion to which religion is a response. Beneath the magic and the sentimentality, The Once and Future King is a book about sin, and its workings out. Arthur sleeps all unknowing with his own half-sister and begets the child who will kill him, but, long before, the roots of that disaster were planted by his father. Magic can do anything in that world except restore innocence.

As I said, this is a deeply pagan view. It offers no possibility of renewal, or repentance, though it is full of remorse. It is the drama of Eden, and expulsion from Eden. Yet exactly that hopelessness and sense of a world groaning under weight of cumulative sin brings T.H. White far closer to Columba's real world than anything now sold as "Celtic Spirituality".

Faith & Reason' is edited by Paul Vallety



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Financials lead the field as Footsie surges on rate rise

Blue chips recaptured their prowl. Many are convinced the two have resumed talks. stretched 68.8 points higher to 4,645, arousing hopes it could be back in record-breaking form next week.

The base rate move was seen as reducing the danger of an aggressive run of increases and New York, which seems to be enjoying one of its periods when it exerts a deep fascination for the stock market, put

on a buoyant early display. Financials were back in demand. They drew strength from the higher interest rates

and takeover speculation.

Abbey National and Halifax, the building societies turned banks, took advantage of the 0.25 per cent base rate increase by lifting their mortgage rates 0.35 per cent. In brisk trading Abbey rose 16p to 859.5p and Halifax 6p to 735.5p.
Abbey was again influenced by the story that National

by the story that National Westminster Bank is on the

The possibility of a deal pushed Nat West up nearly 50p at one time; the shares closed 43.5p higher at 780.5p. Royal Bank of Scotland gained 23p

Insurances, awaiting Nor-wich Union, were in the money. Commercial Union jumped 29p to 701.5p and General Accident 20p to 913.5p. Nikko, the Japanese-owned securi-ties house, believes Norwich will be a buy up to 327p.

It was as if the elements combined to generate heady activity among Footsic constituents. It was a blue chips surge with the rest of the market trailing in its wake.

Cable & Wireless was by far the best-performing blue chip. soaring hearly 15 per cent to 572p on its long-awaited Chinese deal over Hong Kong Telecom. In frantic late-afternoon trading there was a rush

MARKET REPORT

stock market reporter of the year

is thought to have been cut by

£6m to £722m and next by

And poor old BTR re-

mained the scene of abject de-

pression. It is nearly the case

of another day, another low.

The shares achieved the dubi-

ous distinction of recording the

£12m to £778m.

to climb on the Cable band-British Aerospace climbed a further 41.5p to 1.315p and Nawagon with many investors encouraged by the even-handtional Power returned to wined nature of the HKT deal and ning ways with a 15p advance the entry it provides for Cable to 516.5p. Bass, the brewing and hotel group, missed the party. It fell 19p to 754p as Merrill Lynch downgraded. This year's figure in China. Seaq put turnover at nearly 24 million shares.

Lasmo continued to fight its way from the Footsie relegation zone with a 16p gain to 275p as the oil group's asset estimates were raised following its latest Venezuelan deal.

Rank's decision to bring forward the sale of its remaining 20 per cent of the Rank Xerox office equipment group produced a 26p gain to 448.5p. It should pull in around £1bn with £250m scheduled for a share buy back.

10.5p to 647.5p in the face of DEREK PAIN

the Westminster furore and Scottish & Newcastle's near continuous slide from 700p went on with a 4p decline to 660.5p. Others under the whip and hitting 12-month lows in-cluded Albert Fisher, 1.5p to 36.5p, ML Laboratories, 4.5p to 174.5p and Storehouse, 3p

to 1745p.

10 191p.

FKI, the engineer, added 4p to 179p; Mercury Asset Management acquired 5.1 million shares, increasing its stake to 16 per cent. J Sainsbury shaded 2p to 349p with BZW said to be negative.

to be negative. Goldsborough was the day's top performer, up 27 per cent to 172.5p following the £76.7m Bupa bid, CNC Properties slipped 2p to 77.5p. On Wednesday it said it had received a bid approach; yesterday it said no offer had been worst Footsie fall, off 5p to 188.5p. The slide has already prompted calls for boardroom

changes at the once highly regarded conglomerate.

Positrack retreated a further received and it was not in talks which might lead to a bid.

Dragon Oil fell 0.5p to 2.25p. It is raising £62.5m via a rights issue and intends to spend the cash developing in-

terests in the Far East and Turkmenistan. Bostrom, a vehicle components group, held at 281p as stockbroker Albert E Sharp made enthusiastic noises, forecasting profits up from £5.85m last year to £6.7m this and

£7.6m next. ERA, the loss-making retailer, held at 5.5p. It has said disposals are under consideration. One suggestion is it intends to sell its Beatties model shops to Hamleys; the toy re-tailer unchanged at 285.5p.

Aliders, the department store chain, held at 217p. Stockbroker Greig Middleton believes the shares remain undervalued. It expects profits to hit £19m this year, up from £11.4m, with £22m likely next year.

☐ Ex-Lands Properties rose 1.25p to 18.5p as Marylebone Warwick Balfour emerged as its bid target. It is paying £21.1m in shares and warrants. Three MWB men join the board and Christopher Parker and brothers Graham and Robert Bourne are quitting. The arrival of MWB is something of a surprise. The group held talks with Martin Myers who has extensive property interests. Last month he announced a 7.1

Old English Pub Co. which has grown from 10 outlets to 86 in four years, has the backing of stockbroker Granville Davies which forecasts profits will hit £7.6m by 2000 against £1.6m last year, It believes OEPC's strength is operating in the rural pub market where major competitors are few. The shares are 237.5p.

per cent Ex-Lands stake.

business & city BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

Industry backlash as base rates rise

Michael Harrison

The City greeted yesterday's quarter point rise in interest rates enthusiastically but there was an angry reaction from industry, fearful that it will drive the pound higher and further damage export in at least one more quarter At the end of its first meetpoint rate rise this year.

ing since being given opera-

6.25 per cent to 6.5 per cent. The rate rise had been expected following comments by the Bank's Governor, Eddie George, earlier this week about the inflationary impact of the building society windfalls. Most City economists are pencilling

The monetary committee tional independence to set said the increase was needed to monetary policy committee outout and employment at a mously. This will emerge when

sustainable rate. It added that the minutes of the two-day right move by the Bank and my term inflationary pressures the latest monetary and economic data was consistent with weeks' time.

the minutes of the two-day right move by the Bank and my term inflationary pressures guess is that there are probably were subdued at present. "We a few more interest rate inthe Bank's last inflation report three weeks ago. This said that notwithstanding the strength of sterling, which was helping restrain inflation, there was likely to be a need for a further

moderate tightening of policy". The Bank declined to comment on how the committee had voted and whether it had rates, the Bank of England's achieve continued growth in backed the rate rise unani-

Foreign exchange, equity and bond markets took the rate rise in their stride. The pound firmed initially against the deutschmark but then lost ground to close 1.5 pfennings lower in London while gilts rose marginally and the FISE 100 Index put on 68.8 points to close at 4,645.

Neil Mackinnon of Citibank said: "I certainly think it's the

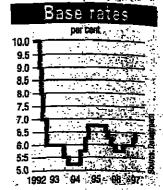
creases in the pipeline. It is clear that the Bank has decioded not to wait for the Chancellor's Budget. They have decided to

establish credibility early on." But the reaction from business was less favourable. The Confederation of British Industry's chief economic adviser, Kate Barker, said it was disappointed at the timing of the increase because shortwould have preferred interest rates to be left on hold until after the Budget when any change in the fiscal stance could be taken into account."

she added.
"We remain concerned about the impact of higher interest rates on sterling at a time when many exporters into Europe are experiencing a sharp squeeze on their profit

The Engineering Employers' Federation also attacked the increase warning that it would damage the UK's manufacturing base which was still suffering fragile demand, particularly oversaes because of the strength of the pound. The Institute of Directors

backed the move, however, its head of policy Ruth Lea describing the quarter-point hike as "a step in the right direction to pre-empt inflation and maintain stability" tion and maintain stability".





Ringing the change: Lord MacLaurin, chairman of Tesco, on his last day at the 'office', with Terence Leahy, chief executive Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Lord MacLaurin checks out for last time

Clifford German

There was a distinctly end-of term feeling at the Seven Kings Suite in the Royal Lancaster Hotel yesterday as Lord MacLaurin bowed out at the Tesco annual general module after 38 years with the company, 27 of them on the board. His a doggy-bag containing a bottle of Australian red wine. He and the success of the England cricket team in the First Test Jack Cohen was still in charge of a company which operated under the philosophy of "pile it high, sell it cheap".

Lord MacLaurin's reign, though, has seen that philospo-

Chris Godsmark

Progress towards the planned

£2bn flotation of the Formula

One grand prix empire is at-

tracting growing concern in the City after the apparent reluc-

tance of Bernie Ecclestone.

owner of the promotional op-

eration, to disclose details of the

In an unusual move, Mr Ec-

clestone is understood to have

ordered that circulation of re-

search notes written by the se-

lect group of City analysts invited to follow the flotation is

restricted to a small number of

big institutional investors. It

means the first chance to study

details of the businesses, to be grouped into a Formula One

holding company, will be when

the formal prospectus document

is published by Salomon Broth-

ers, the US investment hank

managing the flotation. In most

hy consigned to history and ended with the company as market leader and a reputation in the City as one of the strongest shares in the retail sec-

Around 300 shareholders Tesco annual general meeting gathered to hear him make his share price has risen while he against Australia. has been on the board from 20p in 1970 to yesterday's price of 374p, comfortably outperforming the stock market over the years. But in the circumstances Lord MacLaurin's farewell

Ecclestone fuels City

fears on F1 flotation

ers, which is handling the offer,

said he could not confirm

whether the float would take

place at all. "We are just working away on this and I cannot

say whether there will or won't

be a flotation, though we expect

the near future." Mr Purslow

said the "tentative" timetable

agreed with Mr Ecclestone.

thought to be to float the busi-

ness at the British Grand Prix

Salomon Brothers have al-

ready raised eyebrows in some

City circles by effectively ex-

cluding analysts from some

well-known broking houses

from progress briefings on the

flotations. Those analysts invited

into the "inner circle" to meet

Mr Ecclesione are from secu-

rities houses and merchant

banks which are also sub-un-

on 13 July, had not changed.

Separately yesterday Christ-ian Purslow of Salomon Broth-ed in the City and in motor rac-

to make an announcement in stone and the Stock Exchange

flotation.

statement was a rather low-key

The meeting was all over in 62 minutes. Questions from the floor began and ended with a copious amount of eulogies for Lord MacLaurin The first question from a small sharehis successful time at Tesco large High Street stores in the

They ended with a fulsome tribute from David Rough, the group director of investments at Legal & General, who spoke for the institutional shareholders.

ing circles, because most of his

deals to sell exclusive television

rights for grand prix races have

until now been a closely guard-

ed secret. Intensive negota-

tions have continued between

Salomon Brothers, Mr Eccle-

over how much or how little of

this information is laid out in the

prospectus. At issue is how

much each cash television com-

pany pays to broadcast races,

facts which would be a pre-

requisite for an accurate valu-

ation of the business before a

of the increasingly complex

public offering came as the

leading teams have continued

to demand a more substantial

stake in the floated company.

Salomon Brothers' most re-

cent plan was to sell around 50

per cent to public, with Mr Ec-

clestone keeping a 30 per cent stake and 10 per cent each go-ing to the teams and to the

sport's governing body.

The latest obstacle in the way

"This man made Tesco a

global player in the Premier League", Mr Rough enthused. "He presided over nothing less than a revolution in retailing. He reinvented and rejuvenated the company twice, maybe three He masterminded Tesco's move from a succession of small stores into a range of seventies, then spearheaded the shift towards edge of town

superstores in the Eighties." Mr Rough also praised the re-tiring chairman's skills as a member of the Chelsea Youth team in the fifties alongside Jimmy Grieves and the fact that he was captain of the English

Sameena Ahmad

Goldsborough, which exactly a

year ago fought off a hostile

takeover bid from Westminster

Health Care, yesterday agreed

to a £76.7m cash offer from Bupa, the healthcare provider.

The bid values Goldsbor-

ough at 175p a share plus a 1.4p

interim dividend, and left the

group's shares 37 per cent high-

er at 172.5p. The rise means that

Westminster's 9.1 per cent stake

in Goldsborough, built at the

time of its attempted offer, is

now worth £6.9m, almost £2m

more than before the Bupa

bid. "It's nice that we got our

money back," joked Pat Carter. Westminster's chief executive.

Graham Smith, Goldsbor-

ough's chief executive, said the

offer, which at 176.4p is 20p

higher than Westminster's

156p-a-share cash alternative.

vindicated his controversial de-

cision to fend off last year's bid:

ster's price was inadequate,"

We always felt that Westmin-

Analysts welcomed the deal

and said further consolidation

was to come in the nursing

Schools cricket XI, before embarking on a career in business instead of sport and he speculated on which career would have been the more financially rewarding nowadays.

Some shareholders pressed him to show more concern with environmental worries and rethink plans for new supermarkets in sensitive parts of the country. Others took time to praise Tesco's efforts to bring commercial choice to their former homelands in Hungary, Poland and the Czech republic.

Lord MacLaurin played them all with equal sureness.

homes sector. Paul Saper, of in-

dustry consultants Laing & Buis-

son, said: "This is not the end of

the story. The attitude in this sec-

tor is buy anything that moves.

Where does it leave Communi-

bought Goldsborough shares in

the market, increasing its stake

to 29.3 per cent, is unlikely to be outbid. Peter Jacobs, Bupa's

chief executive, also refuted

suggestions that buying Golds-borough, which adds 32 nursing

homes to its own 44 and six hos-

pitals to its 29, might raise mo-

nopoly issues because Bupa

was both a provider and pur-

chaser of healthcare services.

"After this we will still have just

1.2 per cent of the hospital mar-

ket and there is no geographi-

cal overlap in the nursing homes," said Mr Jacobs.

Mr Smith, who recently put

half of Goldsborough's nursing

homes up for sale, will stay on

at Bupa to run its expanded nursing homes business. It's a

bit ironic, given that he has been

trying to move out of the busi-

ness," said Mr Saper.

ty Hospitals, for instance? Bupa, which vesterday

Goldsborough agrees

C&W gets 'unique foothold' in China

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent**

Cable & Wireless yesterday pulled off its long-awaited deal with the Chinese government, selling part of the UK group's lucrative stake in Hong Kong's main telephone network and gaining what it hailed as a unique foothold in China, one of the world's fastest growing

communications markets. After months of talks Dick Brown, C&W chief executive, secured a significant coup by concluding the agreement with the Chinese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, before Britain hands over control of Hong Kong. In the first phase C&W will sell 5.5 per cent of the its 59 per cent stake in Hong Kong Telecom to China Telecom, the main state operator. In later stages C&W has conced-ed that it could reduce its share-

holding below 50 per cent towards parity with the Chinese. The deal would raise HK\$9,177m (£726m) for C&W, valuing Hong Kong shares at HK \$14.25, well below yesterday's closing price of \$18.98. The group defended the low selling price, arguing it was the average trading value in recent months. C&W would use the cash to pay off debt before examining further acquisitions.

C&Ws share price soaring by 74.5p to a record high of 572p, adding almost £1.7bn to the group's market value. The previous peak of 546p for C&W shares was last year during the abandoned merger talks with British Telecom. In return C&W said it had

achieved the first significant foothold by an outside telecommunications group into China, a market with huge growth po-tential where just 7 per cent of customers have phone connections. "China Telecom is growing at the rate of one British Telecom every fifteen months," said Rodney Olsen, the finance director.

Speaking from Peking, Mr Brown said one possibility was that future deals with China Telecom could be done through share swaps. "Certainly this is not the end of announcements. Others will follow but we don't want to be held to a date It could lead to a situation where we go below 50 per cent, where we go below a shareholding equal to China." He added that any further share sales would be "mutually agreed" with the

Chinese. It was less clear yesterday what China Telecom had offered to C&W in return. The unique opportunity" was the

The announcement sent right to become the major investor in China Telecom's subsidiary in Hong Kong, set up to develop a foothold in the colony. Mr Olson said the subsidiary was vehicle to invest in China itself, getting round a ban on direct stakes by foreign

companies.
"This establishes the platform for news to come later. It won't come in the weeks ahead, but certainly in the months ahead. There is much to be done and that's in the interests of both

and that's in the interests of com-of us," Mr Brown said.

Analysts were guarded about the deal last night, pointing to the difficulty of valuing oppor-tunities in China. Mark Lambert, a telecommunications analyst with NatWest Markets. said: "In principle, access to China is fantastic, but we don't know the details of this deal. We don't know what price they are paying, or the size of stake they will get."

The announcement caps almost a year of high profile deals by Mr Brown since he joined C&W in July 1996. His two previous coups were to extricate C&W from an alliance in Germany with the utility group Veba, and the deal to attack the UK phone and cable TV market by merging Mercury with three cable companies to form

Softer terms expected on Maastricht criteria

John Shepherd

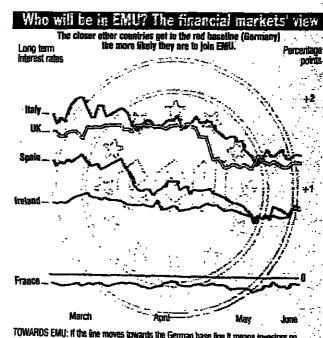
The chances of a single currency beginning on time are contin-uing to fall although a majority of The Independent's nine-strong panel of economists still believes the 1999 start date £76m offer from Bupa will be met.

Following a fall last week in the probability of EMU starting on time from 69 per cent to 61.4 per cent, there has been a further drop this week to 58.5 per cent. The probability of a delay has risen sharply from 30.6

per cent to 35.5 per cent. Many of the panel members believe there is a political will to press ahead with EMU and there will be a less rigid interpretation of the Maastricht criteria which will result in the southern Mediterranean countries. Spain and Italy, being in a broader-based single currency.

Alex Garrard of UBS said: The recent gold spat in Germany and the outcome of the French elections are likely to lead to softer terms." Along with other members of the panel, he was encouraged by the inclusion of many pro-Europeans in the new French cabinet. "On the whole this leaves us confident EMU will begin on schedule." One of the main concerns is

how the German government, in the words of Robert Prior at James Capel, will "have to balance the books without creative



TOWARDS EMU: If the time moves towards the German base line it means investors no longer require such a high premium for holding that country's bonds compared to German ones, because they are confident the currency won't devalue against the Mark. In other words, they think that country will be locked into a single currency with Germany in tentance time. words, way than the booking it they think the country won't be in EMU, that it will have higher inflation, and that there is a risk of a future devaluation against the Mark, then they will demand an extra premium for holding that country's bonds, so the fire will move away from

When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

The Independent asked analysis from:
Mikito Europe, Paine Webber, ABN Amro, JP Morgan, Deutsche Morgan Grantell Saloman Brethers, Goldman Sachs, HSBC James Capet, UBS what probability they placed on EMU starting on time.

Probability EMU starts on time: Probability EMU is delayed: Probability EMU never happens:

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CURRENCIES

#### BA renews attack on union strike ballot

British Airways last night renewed its attack on the unions over the decison to ballot staff for strike action, calling the decison "bizarre and regrettable".

The airline said that some staff who had been balloted for action in its World cargo division had yesterday endorsed management plans to improve efficiency with the aim of saving £1bn from costs by the end of the decade.

last month of the proposals which protect jobs but impose a two year pay freeze. Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive,

said: "These kind of undertakings will improve processes and bring greater efficiency to our entire operation.

He added that the strike ballot, called by the Transport and General Workers Union, could only jeopardise this and other agreements BA had reached with other staff members.

The strike ballot was called over BA's decision to sell its long-haul catering operation Employees voted in favour at Heathrow. BA defends the sale arguing that it is the only major carrier in Europe which still has its own catering

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JEREMY WARNER

'Once you start attacking the idea of profit you are on a slippery slope. Such talk is hard to reconcile with Labour's supposed conversion to free

market economics

#### Like it or hate it, profit is a necessary thing

The City is worried. Not about all the re-forms Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, is trying to push through on monetary pol-icy and City regulation. Nobody disagrees very much with all that. But about the forces of Old Labour, which now that the party is back in power, are with growing confidence beginning to stick their heads above the parapet once more.

First we had Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, who, by demanding that Camelot directors pay their bonuses to charity, has in effect challenged the principle that pri-vate-sector companies should be allowed to pay their staff and directors what they please. And then there was John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, ranting and raving about Railtrack's profits in a manner which implied that privatised utilities shouldn't be allowed to make a profit at all. 'It's hasically taxpayers' money," he said of

Railtrack's profits. For the time being all this is just rhetoric, and judging by yesterday's developments at Camelot, rhetoric from which the Government can be persuaded to back away. Labour can hardly be blamed for wanting to play to its audience. Misguided and silly though these views might be, it is nonetheless what an awful lot of people think and no amount of explaining the value of profit and incentive is going to persuade them oth-

its attack to the soft underbelly of business and finance, to the privatised utilities and the national lottery. These are public-service businesses or franchises, and monopolies to boot. To attack profits and pay in these companies is not the same as attacking a businessman's right to make money out of his own entrepreneurial success. Few people in the parliamentary Labour party, let alone the Government, would do that.

Even so, once you start attacking the idea of profit you are on a slippery slope. Such talk is hard to reconcile with Labour's supposed conversion to free market economics, for the whole raison d'être of the capitalist system is the profit motive. There are no halfway houses here. Either it is accepted that the generation of profit is the best way of creating wealth, choice and value in the economy or it is not and Labour is back there with Lionel Jospin and the failed policies of

a bygone age.
This is the case even with the privatised monopolies, where the idea of profit is not so easily defended. The fact that taking the axe to utility profits would be a breach of the terms under which these companies were sold is perhaps the least of concerns here. Lord knows, the City is as accomplished as the Government when it comes to the busi-

finance these things, you have to give it the incentive to do it. And it has been the overwhelming experience of privatisation, even among the water and electricity companies, that there are huge benefits in doing so, both in terms of quality of service and charges.

So the City is right to be worried. And not just because Labour may not be quite as "new" as it pretended during the election. The City too could find itself an object of attack and if it does, the City's super rich, many of whom are foreigners these days, are simply going to up sticks and go somewhere

Presumably Tony Blair meant what he said yesterday when he told European leaders to modernise or die". Unfortunately he cannot yet claim all the high ground. Labour, it seems, has a little modernising of itself left to do. It is an uncomfortable truth that high profits and excessive pay is part of the price you pay for a successful free market economy. No amount of moral indignation is going to change that.

The Nationwide Building Society is bend-ing over backwards to be nice to the ginger group of members who want it to abandon its lonely adherence to mutuality and convert like everyone else. The direcprospectus. But the fact of the matter is that campaign expenses. But just being kind to find the dissidents probably be worth quite a lot more than campaign expenses. But just being kind to find the fact of the matter is that campaign expenses.

So far the new Government has confined if you want the private sector to run and the rebels is not going to persuade members attack to the soft underbelly of business in finance these things, you have to give it the to vote against them. Their campaign slogan, "if you want £1,000, vote for us" has a very basic appeal which most of us are going to

find hard to resist. Nonetheless, I'm instructing my wife, who is a member, to vote against. Whether she'll listen is another thing, for there ain't much doubt that voting against conversion requires some self sacrifice. Nationwide has tried to argue otherwise, and to be fair their case is not a bad one. Over the longer term, the argument goes, you will actually be better off by remaining mutual than if you convert. This is because money which other societies are having to pay out in dividends to their new shareholders can at the Nationwide be used to fund keener borrowing and deposit rates.

This is no mere theoretical argument. The Nationwide was one of the few societies yesterday not to raise the cost of a mortgage in response to the Bank of England's increase in base rates, thereby widening the differential with the Halifax on a variable rate mortgage to 0.65 per cent. On a £50,000 mortgage, that's worth £30 a month, or £360 in a full year. The problem is that most people have smaller mortgage than that Europe have smaller mortgage to the first than the first tha ple have smaller mortgages than that. Furthermore bank shares have risen so strongly over the past month that Nationwide would

idends and the financial argument for staying mutual doesn't really stack up.

All the same, it would be a crying shame if the Nationwide, the last of the big mutual building societies, were to convert too. This is not said out of any nostalgic attachment to the mutual tradition. On the whole, I'm not one for preservation orders. Rather it is said because the Nationwide, by striving to provide a tangible mutual benefit to members, is adding some real competition to the market place. Without a shadow of a doubt mortgage rates would be higher and deposit rates lower if the Nationwide converted.
That's not just at the Nationwide either, but across the board. The shareholder's gain would be the customer's loss. So don't do it. Stay mutual.

That Dick Brown, the American who came over here to run Cable & Wireless in the wake of Lord Young's spectacular boardroom row with James Ross, has gone and done it again. He's considered by many internally as a bit of a fruitcake, but the proof of the pudding ding... Already his deal-making acumen has succeeded in puning Mercury on a decent footing for the first time in its largely miserable existence. Now he's succeeded in establishing l long-term relationship with China Telecom in a manner which seems largely to safeguard the company's interests in Hong Kong. Fruitcake or not, he's certainly making waves.

#### Rank reaps £1bn from disposal of Xerox stake

**Magnus Grimond** 

Rank, the Butlin's to Tom Cobleigh pubs leisure group, yesterday surprised the stock market by announcing the sale for up to £1bn of its 20 per cent stake in the Rank Xerox copiers joint venture some six months ahead of expectations. The deal, first mooted last August, prompted speculation that Rank's chief executive, Andrew Teare, will mount a big acquisition, despite plans announced yesterday to return £250m to shareholders by means of a buy-back would be used to reshare buy-back later this year.

News of the deal prompted a 26p rise in Rank's shares to concerned that the group may be tempted to splash out. One said: "Rank with £1bn is a bit like a child with a loaded gun. The group has been under pressure to pay back money to shareholders for some time. A quarter of a billion [pounds] is the least they could get away with and that's why the shares

have gone up."

He said the group's £113m acquisition of Tom Cobleigh last September had been done at what looked a very high price. Surrey Free Inns, or another small pub chain, but he "wouldn't put it past them" to have a go at something bigger. like Scottish & Newcastle's struggling Center Parcs leisure village operation. At £800m to £1bn it "would be a very big chunk and if wiser heads prevailed, they wouldn't go ahead with it", he cautioned.

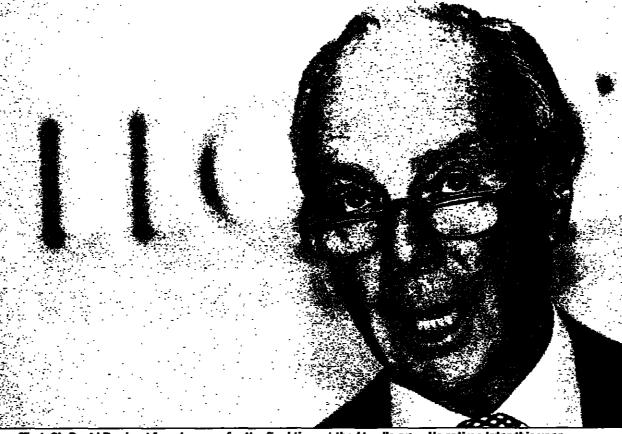
Yesterday's deal involves Xerox Corporation, the American joint venture partner, paying £500m on completion later this month and two further instalments of £220m over the next two years. A further £60m may be payable in 2000, depending on profits. The sale of the stake, which is in the books at £930m. is expected to have a neutral effect on earnings this year. Rank said the balance of the initial consideration not used for the duce debt, which was also around £930m at the end of last year, and "to invest in its leisure intertainment businesses".

Mr Teare, who has raised around £1.3bn from asset sales since his appointment last April, said the group could now get out of "disposal mode". He added: "A big piece of historic baggage has been dealt with."

Although Rank was seeking add-on acquisitions, he sought to play down talk of anything higger, saying strict internal targets for return on capital meant they would steer clear of

big, expensive deals.
The final sale of the Rank The group might now go after Xerox stake values the joint venture on a broadly similar basis to an earlier £620m deal in February 1995 when Rank reduced its effective interest from 33 per cent to the current 20 per

cent. Last year, Rank hived that off tax benefits of the disposal.



Unruffled; Sir David Rowland faced names for the final time at the Lloyd's agm. He retires later this year

Sir David Rowland's final confrontation with the names who have, at times, made a snake pit out of his four-and-a-half-year period as chairman of the Lloyd's of London insurance market was a tame affair yes-

terday. The 700 or so mainly elderly investors who turned up to the annual general meeting in Lon-don's Barbican concert hall were generally in no mood to be obstructive.

The smooth Sir David, upon whom the mud of the past few tumultuous years at Lloyd's resolutely fails to stick, will have been pleased by the welloiled way in which yesterday's

gathering passed off.
Only the presence of Sally
Noel, the former model and confidante of the 1960s pop group into a subsidiary to maximise the | Small Faces, who has become something of a feature at these

#### Rowland rules serenely at tame Lloyd's meeting

events, livened up the proceedings. One of the few moments are Englishman was innocent unto disturb Sir David's otherwise unruffled composure was her opening words "congratulating you on getting knighted, when in other countries you would

have been indicted". Names were even less pleased when Ms Noel accused Lloyd's of propping up the Conservative Party by saving two of its MPs from bankruptcy. Praying in aid the dictum of Neil Hamilton,

the former MP for Tatton who

til proven guilty, she accused the insurance society of blocking names' pursuit of justice by bankrupting them.

But what really got their goat was her request that Lloyd's contribute to a business justice and ethics foundation to stamp out the "fraud" which is endemic in corporate culture.

We need support from captains of industry in upholding standards of morality and de-

a set of packaging modifications on four of Asda's own-label spirits, sold under the names of Daniel Boone's. Deep South, Windward and Asda Peach Schnapps. The packaging changes will be implemented by Asda "over the next few months". GrandMet and Brown-Forman filed legal action in December, alleging the packaging of the Asda brands looked very similar to the packaging for Jack Daniel's Tennessee Whiskey, Southern Comfort, Malibu and Archers Peach Schnapps. Royal Mail creates 700 jobs in North-west Royal Mail is to create more than 700 jobs at a sorting centre at Crewe in Cheshire. The £10.5m complex will open in 1999 and will handle a predicted doubling in mail over 10 years in the Northwest. The scheme is part of a £64m Royal Mail investment in the

IN BRIEF Asda concedes defeat in GrandMet fight

Asda, the supermarkets group, has agreed to change the pack-aging on its own-label spirits, bringing to an end a legal dispute with Grand Metropolitan and Brown-Forman of the US. Grand-Met and Brown-Forman have halted legal action in exchange for

#### region. Ken Barker, Royal Mail general manager, said: "By expanding now we will secure the future of the business and safeguard the interests of our 20,000 employees in the North-west."

Further raid made on Dai-Ichi head office Investigators from the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office staged a second raid on the head office of Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank in connection with the alleged payoff scandal. Separately, Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, finance minister, hinted at tough penalties for the bank. Investigators are believed to be looking for evidence that the bank provided funds to the alleged sokaiya extortionist Ryuichi Koike. Mr Mitsuzuka said his ministry would respond to DKB's alleged involvement in the illegal payout in a "strict manner", and would

#### also examine the possibility of conducting surprise inspections on banks to prevent them from concealing illegal lending. PowderJect float twice oversubscribed

Paul Drayson, the chairman and chief executive of PowderJect, will have a shareholding worth £15.7m when the drug delivery company joins the stock market on 17 June valued at £109.3m. Brian Beilhouse, the research director who together with Dr Drayson will own 22 per cent of the company, will be worth £13.3m. Neither director sold shares in the placing and no director will sell shares for two years. The offer was almost twice oversubscribed. PowderJect, which has pioneered the needle-less injection and which made an operating loss of £5m last year, is raising £35m of new money to fund research. The placing was underwritten by Robert Fleming.

#### Royal Dutch Shell chairman off 'for weeks'

Cor Herkstroter, chairman of Royal Dutch Shell Group, has been taken to hospital for medical treatment and recuperation that will take "some weeks", a spokesman for the oil giant said. The company declined to say why Mr Herkstroter, who is also president of Royal Dutch Petroleum, was hospitalised. John Jennings, who is chairman of Shell Transport and Trading, will replace Mr Herkstroter as chairman of Shell Group's committee of managing di-

#### Regent Corp goes into administration

The board of Regent Corp is placing the company into administration because of actions by creditors. The directors said they would continue to look for an appropriate transaction to secure the future of the group. After consultation with the Stock Exchange and its advisers, the company has requested the cancel-lation of its listings of ordinary shares and 4.2 per cent cumulative preference shares with effect from Monday.

#### Hunt on for chief executive for Park Food

Park Food, the Birkenhead-based Christmas hampers group, said it was seeking to recruit a chief executive over the next few months. Peter Johnson, chairman and controlling shareholder, said the winning candidate would probably come from outside the group. Announcing a 1.1 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £9.61m for the year to March, he said the group had put behind it the probems of last year when it faced a management buy-out attempt.

#### Thames to invest £44m in Indonesian project

#### Michael Harrison

Thames Water yesterday took its first step back into the international arena since it was forced to write off £95m on a series of disastrous overseas

The company is to take a 70 per cent stake in a consortium selected to manage water sup-

Foreign Exchange Rates ...

plies for 5 million people in the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

Thames is putting up £44m out of total planned investment of £160m over the next five years. The concession, which covers the eastern half of Jakarta and will run for 25 years, is expected to generate sales of £57m a year initially, rising to £200m.

The joint venture with the Indonesian development company, PT Kekarpola Airindo, will be 30 per cent equity financed and 70 per cent debt

funded. It is Thames' first international deal since it pulled out of a series of loss-making overseas ventures early last year. It part-ed company with its chief ex-

Interest Rates

Bond Yields

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ecutive, Michael Hoffman, at the same time. Since then Thames has overhauled its international strategy and ceased to be involved in the construction of overseas projects, instead exporting its expertise in run-

ning water systems.

As Thames was signing the deal to supply eastern Jakarta it was confirmed that a con-

sortium led by the French water group, Lyonnais des Eaux, tralia. Thames is not the first had won the concession to manage supplies for the western half

Jakarta is believed to be the largest single water concession anywhere in the world. Thames has half a dozen

company to run into trouble overseas. Earlier this year Unit-ed Utilities wrote off £83m on a sewage project in Bangkok and last week Anglian Water wrote off £18.8m on its international business, including other major overseas contracts £7.3m on a venture to build a in Turkey, Thailand, China, waste treatment plant in Brazil.

cency..." she began, but her

words were drowned in sea of

slow hand-clapping and bar-

racking which would have done the Millwall terraces proud.

this year, would give nothing

away about the identity or even

the length of the shortlist for his

replacement, other than that a selection of candidates would be

in place by the time of the elec-

tion in October. He reiterated

tion of names' unlimited liabil-

ity being threatened, although he added: "We don't have a lot

of evidence of new traditional

ket. It ain't there.

names wanting to join the mar-

Support for this comes in ev-

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Lloyd's Names that up to two-

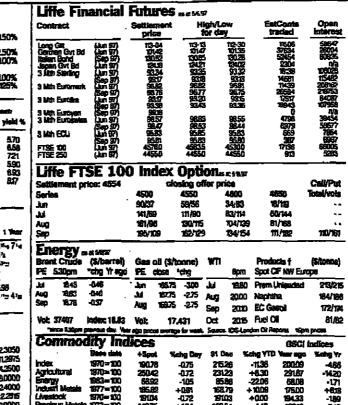
thirds of its members are con-

sidering converting their interest in the market to one

which will in future limit their

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Sir David, who retires later



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**Smith rescues** 

#### Benaud's words of Wisden

James Rampton at Edgbaston meets cricket's icon of the commentary box

Richie Benaud puts down his BBC microphone after a commentary stint and makes a dash for the door of the box. He has an urgent appointment commentating for Australia's Channel Nine, whose studio is sited across a precarious scaffolding walkway spanning the roof of the Edgbaston pavilion. At the door, however, he is waylaid by his fellow commentator Tony Lewis, who hands him a fistful of fan mail. "Thanks, I've got so much time to spare," pants Benaud with a smile before walking the plank to Channel Nine. The Australian television com-

mentator had occupied an earlier break on Thursday by recording a link for the evening's highlights, before tapping away feverishly at a laptop—he's a one-man publishing industry—and gulping down a lunchtime sandwich (it was 4pm). On Wednesday evening he had managed to squeeze me in for an interview between jetting in from the south of France and a meeting and dinner with his BBC producers.

How does he manage to keep so many cricket balls in the air at the same time? "I just need to write it all down," he laughs. "As long as my eyes stay all right and I can still read, I'll be OK."

Benaud is a man much in demand. But that is only fitting for a commentator acknowledged as the best in the business. He has an enviable economy with words. never using two words when one will do and only speaking if he thinks what he says will actually add something to the pictures a lesson certain, more excitable, commentators might heed.

His simplest locutions - "got him" when a wicket falls, or even "morning, everyone" - have become catchphrases. They are parroted by aspiring impres-sionists and children in school playgrounds across the land. A stall at Edghaston on Thursday appeared to be doing a roaring trade in Benaud postcards. Unusually for an Australian, he has

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taken on the status of a British national institution.

That is certainly how his fellow commentators view him. Benaud is spoken of in hushed tones as a "guru" or an "icon" descriptions, incidentally, that the modest Australian hates. "He's the best," David Gower states simply. "He doesn't waste words. Think before you pick up the mike' is one of the little gems of advice that he gives. It's so easy just to rabbit on without knowing where you're going. Richie has the knack of always knowing where he's going."

Lewis is also a founder-member of the Richie Benaud Appreciation Society. "He has great intelligence," Lewis reckons. "I know because I've played under his captaincy for a Commonwealth team. He has a meticulous attention to detail. He is also able to act like a schoolteacher and say, 'What you want to see is this, as if he had a blackboard. He has a wonderful command of words; he always finds the right phrase." (I still recall him describing an Ian Botham hook shot in 1981 as "like swatting a fly".) "It's be-cause he trained as a journalist." Lewis contends. "When he was young, he was a court reporter." Under duress, the man him-

self concurs with that assessment. "My strength is knowing what not to say," says Benaud, after some coaxing. "There's so much opportunity to keep talking. If I am able to pull it off, it's because I started off as a journalist in 1956. If your editor says to you, I want a story about Fred Smith in 400 words, it's no good putting in 750, however great you think the story is. I was taught then how to condense a story, and I've always found that of great value in television, especially as you're often being counted down to zero. If you mess that up, you put things out

for the rest of the day." Benaud's calm under the fire of a director shouting "3,2,1" in

CHESTER-LE-STREET: Sussex (8pts), with

SUSSEX - First Impings 373 (N J Lenham 93, P Moores 60; S J E Brown 5-115).

larvs 28-7-97-2; Drakes 27-5-90-4

Durham v Sussex

DURHAM – First lecologis

otras (b6, lb11, nb24) ..... (otal (98 overs) .....

SUSSEX -- Second Inning:

N J Lenham c Boon b Waller ... k Greenfield c Speight b Brown N R Taylor c Speight b Waller ... C W J Athey Ibw b Brown .....

Newell c Speak b Betts ....... I Newell c Roseberry b Walker

Bowling: Brown 20-2-55-3; Betts 18-2-61-1; Nalker 24-4-61-4, Foster 8-1-43-0; Saggers

kres: J C Balderstone and D J Constant.

RWICKSHIRE - First landings 314 (T (, view 84; J B D Thompson 5-89).

P W Jarvis c Saggers to Brown A A khan not out .....

Kent v Warwickshire

M J Philips c and b Welch ...... M J McCague c Penney b Smith Extras (b2, ltg, w10, nb20) .... Total (13.1.2 overs) ..... Fall (cont): 9-352.

Vanwickshire won toss

Overnight: 319 for 8/ J B D Thompson ***

RIDGE WELLS: Warwick our second-innings wid

(Overnight: 309 for 9) S J E Brown c Robinson b Khan A Walker not out .....



his ear is typical. Edgbaston on Thursday was en fete. The fall of every Australian wicket was greeted by Barmy Army chants of "you're not singing anymore" at the Antipodean element. The TV gantry, too, was buzzing; everyone from a Blue Peter presenter to Botham who appeared to have a mobile phone surgically attached to his ear - was swarming around.

Yet throughout the commotion Benaud was supremely unruffled. When late on in the afternoon the camera cut to a phalanx of Aussie fans who

D R Brown c Uong b Thompson A J Moles c Futton b Fleming ...

Fall: 1-24, 2-100, 3-118, 4-175, 5-176.

To bat: M D Edmond, †T Frost, G C Small, Bowling: Thompson 16-5-28-1; Phillips

Bowling: Thompson 16-5-28-1; Phillips 12-2-48-3; Fleming 18-6-40-1; Strang 28-7-90-1; Hong 4-2-16-0. Umpires: B Dudleston and R Julian.

Middlesex v Leicestershire

LORD'S: Leicestershire (6pts), with seven second-innings wickets standing, are 121 runs ahead of Middlesex (8).

EFICESTERSKURE - First Includes 280 J J

Bowling: Mulally 23-7-75-2: Parsons 132-5-22-4: Johnson 12-1-48-0; Person 33-3-115-2: alotte 5-2-7-75-2:

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE - First linnings 235 IJ N Snape 77: IA N Boxen 5-57).

·3-115-2; Wells 8-0-46-1. Brimson

ker 110: A R C Fraser 6-77

(Overnight: 298 for 4)
I C Pooley c and b Brimson . . . th R Brown ibs: b Wells ...........

G Welch not out ........ Extras (b8, lb?, w10).

Leicestershire won ICSS

re 216 runs abeac

night: 259 for 9

seemed to be trying to beat David Boon's in-flight record for lager consumption, Benaud raised the merest of verbal eyebrows. "They look happy enough," he mused. "Maybe they only came in after the Australian innings." The authentic sound of his master's voice.

In his work, Benaud adheres to Polonius's advice: "To thine own self be true." "The secret of good commentary," he observes, is being yourself. A lot of people ask me. 'Could you give Fred or Charlie or Elizabeth some tips about commentary?, and I al-

M B Loye b Astle ...... R J Bailey not out ...... k M Curran c Astle h Bow

Astie 16-4-33-2: Tot

Surrey v Essex

ESSEX - Second limings (Overlaght: 40 for 0)

Extras (b4, b3, nb2)
Total (for 5, 69.3 overs)
Fall: 1-39, 2-40, 3-88, 4-144, 5-144,

6-0-22-0; Atzaal 5-0-14-0. Umpires: G I Burgess and J H Hams.

ESSEX - First lenings 347 (D.D.) Robinson 98, R.J. Rollins 56).

SUPRIEY - First Innings 280 A D Brown 109; 4 P Cowan 5-58:.

*G A Gooch c B C Holhoake t Salisbury ...56 D D J Robrison c Lewis b Benjamin ....23 A P Grayson c knott b Salisbury .....105

M C flott not out
A P Cowan c herns b B C Hollidake ...
P M Such b Lesis ...

Substant (b2, 42, nb9)

SURREY - Second Innings D J Bicknell c Rollins b Irani...

() A knott not out ....

Total (for 2, 27 overs) .... Fall: 1-0 2-61.

G J Kennis c Robinson b Cowan .... I D Ratchfle not out .....

To but: N Shahid, *C C Lewis, A D Brown, B C Holhoake, J D K Saksbury, A J Tudor, J E

Benjamin. Ukspires: A A Jones and D R Snepherd.

Yorkshire v Gloucestershire

HEADINGLEY: Yorkshire (4pts), with six sec-ond-lunkings wickets standing, require 217 runs to beat Gloucestershire (5).

en 17-2-77-3. Pct. 14.3-3-53-0:

ways say no. Everyone should commentate in their own way. I have enormous respect for Dan Maskell, Henry Longhurst and Peter O'Sullevan but, if I were to try to copy them, I'd be gone. I still watch as much television as I can; I'm constantly trying to improve. It's like playing: never a day goes past when I don't pick

up something of value."

A Lynch 601

51no: A M Smith 6-58)

*D Byas b Young ...... D S Lehmann lbw b Young

The man's enthusiasm for a game he has covered for the BBC since 1960 is infectious. "After all these years," says Lewis, with no little awe, "he still finds the tiny details of cricket

SRE – First Innings 183(R J Blakey

Young 12-4-30-3; Alleyne 13-0-55-0; Bal 10-2-32-0, Hancock 3-2-13-0. Tramo

GLAMORGAN - First innings 422 for 2 dec (M / Powell 200no, G P Butcher 101no).

Umpires: J H Hampshire and T E Josty

Other first-class match

Second day of three; 11.30 today

THE PARKS: Oxford University first-innings wicket standing, ar behind Glamorgan.

G Morgan c Dale to Cosker

mongan won fo

no-one else has spotted." So how on earth does this 66-

year-old keep up the keenness of someone half his age? "There's something brilliant every day I watch," he says. 'That's why I love it so much. You can have a morning like today when eight wickets fall, and then in the afternoon someone can score a hundred. You'd have to be crazy not to be enthusiastic about it still. What more could you want in life?"

With that, Benaud hurries back to his commentary position.

Falt: 1-0, 2-85, 3-103, 4-235, 5-237, 6-238, Bowling: Thomas 25-4-95-5; Warren 14-5-45-0; Cosker 29-10-68-3; Butcher 14-3-3-56-1; Edwards 5-2-18-0. Unipires: M J Kirchen and k J Lyons.

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (Finel day of three unless stated): Swensea: Glamorgan 183 (K J Innes 4-45; A L Penbertly 4-47) and 14-0-6 (G J Hayne 66no; J F Brown 4-45): Northamptonshire 382 for 7 dec (P J Warren 151, A L Penbertly 53, J G Hughes 51no). Match drawn. Abbotsholme School, Rocester: Derbelbe 500 for 4 for (T 4 Kunst 140). byshire 508 for 4 dec (T A Tweats 248no, M J Vandrau 75no, B Spendove 53, J Owen 501: Sussex 324 (R k Rao 199; S J Lacey 6-88) and 144 (I Blackwell 4-54). Derby-6-88) and 144 (I Blackwell 4-54). Derbyshine won by an Immings and 40 runs. Southampton: Surrey 299 (I Ward 61): S M Milburn 4-69) and 216 for 6 (I N Batty 73); Hampshire 402 for 9 dec (I) M Lane 98, M Meech 93 M Garraway 88). Matech drawn. Bford: Esses 350 for 7 dec (A J E Hibbert 64, J C Powell 54, D G Wisson 57no) and 155 (M Bell 6-58, S McClonald 4-29); Warwickshire 331 (M A Sheikh 186, J C Powell 4-128) and 176 for 3 (W G Khan 54, M J Powell 91). Warwickshire won by seven wickers. Kidderminster (final day of four): Somerset 557 and 356; Worcestershire 433 and 272 IV S Solantin 61. W P C Weston 53, N R Spiring 75; S Herzberg 5-65, J1D Kerr 4-41). Somerset won by 208 runs.

**Tomorrow's fixtures AXA LIFE LEAGUE** 

(One day, 2.0) CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Sussex. TUNBRIDGE WELLS: Kent v Warwickshire. MILTON KEYNES: Northamp

TAUNTON: Somersel v Lancashire THE OVAL: Surrey v Essex. Second XI Championship

(Three days, 11.0) **NESTON:** Cheshiro v Willish DEAN PARK: Dorset v Wales. JESMOND: Northumberland v Norfolk.

lead away with an opening

Darren Maddy, who eventually fell to Phil Tufnell for 103. and Vince Wells swept that

David Hemp hit an unbeat-

Hampshire and the match bounce to add to his repertoire of long hops and full-tosses and Smith did not look vulner-

able again until, having reached three figures from 156 balls, he

failed to get over another vig-.

orous cut against Aldred and the ball almost carried to slip. As backs-to-the-wall opera-Before and after those tions go, Hampshire's latest episodes, Smith was so sublime that Hampshire were never under pressure. Kevan James clare at tea to keep the game open, mercifully without the helped him to add 109 for the third wicket before unluckily meeting a ball which, out of gen-eral context, stopped and lifted to give Aldred a straightforward need for connivance. They may also quietly fancy their chances batting last today.

Derbyshire's attacking limireturn catch.

Encouraged by that, Aldred found some testing bounce and late movement that troubled posed by this pitch and Robin Smith did much as be pleased in making 154 from 215 balls. Apart from the whole-hearted even Smith, but he dealt savagely with the plentiful supply of dross from other sources. He had hit 23 fours and two sixes when he was caught at slip - by then Hampshire were not only back in the game but Derbyshire had been given cause to reflect on the ill-balanced nature of their attack.

Aldred earned further rewards when he had Will Kendall caught behind and John Stephenson walked into a palpable lbw decision. After Adrian Aymes had been caught at slip cutting at Clarke, Hampshire were happy to declare 101 be-hind, but first bad light, then rain, interrupted Derbyshire's reply.

#### Surrey coping without top cats

DAVID LLEWELLYN reports from The Oval Essex 347 and 302 Surrey 280 and 70-2

reports from Chesterfield

Derbyshire 523 and 56-0 Hampshire 422-7 dec

effort was relatively uncompli-

cated and, indeed, very positive yesterday. They were able to de-

tations were unsurprisingly ex-

Paul Aldred, Derbyshire often

bowled without too much con-

viction and they know now, if

they did not before, that Smith

is probably the fiercest square

day might have been different. even on such a mild pitch. The

follow-on figure of 374 was probably still uppermost in

Hampshire minds when Smith,

at 51, cut Vince Clarke through

the upstretched fingertips of

It was a rare moment when

Clarke extracted a little extra

Yet, as ever, the shape of the

cutter in the game.

Chris Adams at slip.

There was an expectation that with the big wheels - Alec Stewart, Graham Thorpe, Mark Butcher and Adam Hollioake off their wagon and on England duty, Surrey would struggle. It has not been far from the truth. But places are up for grabs and while the top cats are away the

rest must play, and play well. In the main that is what they have done, though Essex have not made things easy. By the time the Essex second innings had been wrapped up by the Alex Tudor (side strain) - the home side faced a formidable target of 370 to win off a minimum of 125 overs.

The previous highest fourth innings total Surrey have sucesfully chased against Essex was 340 - in 1947, when they tri-

umphed by two wickets. Before Surrey had knocked a single off that total, they lost the opener Gregor Kennis. The catch he presented to Darren Robinson at third slip was a marginal improvement on his first innings effort. Then he did

not get quite so much bat on the ball and fell to a catch at second slip. It has been an unhappy match for the Yokohama-born Kennis, who has been in stunning form for the Second XI.

At least Darren Bicknell appeared to have recovered his touch for Surrey. He and Jason Ratcliffe shared in a useful second-wicket stand that raised Surrey hopes, but it has to be remembered their first innings hero Alistair Brown has a hand injury. Though Brown could bat at a pinch, he is find-

ing it difficult to grip the bat. The substance of the Essex innings was provided by Paul Grayson. His third hundred for Essex and his fourth in all was chanceless. He coped well with Surrey attack - shorn of the ser- Ian Salisbury's leg spin until the vices of the teenage fast bowler one that dismissed him, when he played back and was caught behind. By then he had batted for more than three hours, faced 150 balls - sending 15 of them to the boundary - and had

made a game of it. Graham Gooch was another. of Salisbury's victims but not before he had made 56, his highest score of the season. It may only have been his first halfcentury of the summer but it was the 344th time he has passed 50 in his first-class career of 25 years. This big wheel just rolls on and on.

#### Parsons the inspiration

Leicestershire yesterday fought like tigers, or rather the champions that they are, to restore some equilibrium to their Championship match against Middlesex at Lord's.

Middlesex appeared to be taking command as they resumed on 298 for 4 in their first nnings, already 18 ahead, but Gordon Parsons was inspired form. He claimed their last four wickets for five runs in 26 balls to finish with 4 for 22 and restrict Middlesex to 395, a lead of 115.

stand of 173.

en 113 as Warwickshire were struggling to set Kent a target

at Tunbridge Wells. They reached 237 for 6 by the close, a lead of 172 after a career-best 59 not out by Julian Thompson had helped Kent reach 379 in their first innings to lead by 65. Thompson put together a ninth-wicket stand of 109 with Ben Phillips, who

scored 41. Phillips then removed Nick Knight, Neil Smith and Trevor Penny, but Hemp stood firm to keep the contest finely balanced.

At Chester-le-Street, Sussex fought back against Durham, led by Neil Taylor, who hit 109, and Bill Athey, who scored 50. Their third-wicket stand of 142 helped Sussex to pile on 243 for 8 in their second-innings, a lead of 278 after Durham had made 338.

HE IS A VERY GOOD CRICKETER-PITY HE'S NOT A BETTER BATTER OR BOWLER 77

TOM GRAVENEY

NOT EVERYTHING IN BLACK AND WHITE MAKES SENSE. GUINNESS

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#### Kuerten calls the shots despite granny's advice

JOHN ROBERTS reports from Roland Garros

Having eliminated the past two French Open champions in five sets en route to tomorrow's men's singles final, the Brazilian Gustavo "Guga" Kuerten is not inclined to pay much heed when his German grandmoth-

er tells him how to succeed. "She arrived yesterday with my mum, and my coach almost lost his job," the 20-year-old Kuerten joked when asked about the redoubtable Olga Schlosser, from Düsseldorf. Ever since I started to play, she knows all. She studied every player. She knows Becker, Sam-

pras, Kafelnikov. "if I start to talk to her, she says, 'Come on, this guy you have to play like this'. Yesterday we went to dinner. They separated me from her so she didn't start with the tips."

The personable Brazilian had best watch his step lest grandmother takes the huff and passes on inside information about his game to his rivals, starting with tomorrow's opponent, Ser-

Having started the tournament by offending the eye of the president of French Tennis Federation with his blue and yellow strips, the tall, lithe Kuerten has risen, unseeded, to become the lowest ranked Grand Slam finalist (No 66) since New Zealand's Chris Lewis (No 91) was

Wimbledon in 1983.

The Brazilian's talent, which shone through consecutive five set matches against Thomas Muster, Andrei Medvedev and Yevgeny Kafelnikov, accounted for Filip Dewulf, the Belgian qualifier, ranked No 122, in the semi-finals. Kuerten won, 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 7-6, and both players received a warm reception for their enterprising contribution

to a bizarre tournament. Bruguera, the No 16 seed, will attempt to win the title for the third time in five years. He managed to subdue the dashing style of Australia's unseeded Pat Rafter, who narrowly failed to carry the tournament in the cause of serve and volley.

The 24-year-old Queenslander worked hard for almost three hours, but was unable to shake Bruguera out of his durable baseline game, and the last of the 18 Spaniards who entered the men's event prevailed, 6-7, 6-1, 7-5, 7-6. The only time Rafter really let down was in the concluding tie-break, which Bruguera won, 7-1.

It will be interesting to see how Bruguera copes with Kuerten's lively groundstrokes tomorrow. Experience and ranking favours the Spaniard, although those two factors have not played a sig-nificant part in the course of the championships so far. Kuerten arrived as a virtual

unknown, but is guaranteed to break into the top 20 whatever

the result of the final. He will then go on to play another clay court event in Bologna, before setting foot on grass at Nottingham the week before Wimbledon, "I have never played on

grass," he said. Whatever else, he will turn up with a predominately white set of clothing.

Four years ago, Iva Majoli of Croatia made her debut in the women's singles here, advancing to the fourth round, where she was defeated by Steffi Graf, the eventual champion. Elsewhere in the grounds, the pre-cocious Martina Hingis was in the process of setting records, winning the junior singles title

at the age of 12.

will contest her first Grand Slam singles final. Facing her will be Hingis, at 16 the youngest winner of a Grand Slam singles title this century, the Australian championship, the youngest ever world No 1, and unbeaten

in 40 matches so far this year. "I'm not going to go out there and think, 'You have no chance, you got to the final, it's finished," Majoli, the No 9 seed says, dismissing a thought which has probably crossed a few minds since Hingis's semifinal win against Monica Seles.

Upsets do happen, as anyone who has taken even a passing interest in the results here will know, and as Majoli is advised to remind herself. "In finals, Today, the 19-year-old Majoli everything is possible," she says.

I'm just going to go out there and try to play my game and attack. I really have nothing to lose. I can really just play the best tennis of my life."

It may help if she recalls the first of their three previous matches, which Majoli won, 6-0 in the third set. That was on a fast carpet court in the semi-finals of the Pan Pacific Open in Tokyo in February, 1996. Majoli, who defeated Seles in the quarter-finals, went on to beat Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the final.

Hingis has won their two subsequent matches, also on carpet, while improving at an as-tonishing rate. "I just think of her as another player," Majoli says, adding significantly, "] know she's great."



Kuerten: Warm reception

The last time two teenagers contested a Grand Slam singles final was in 1991 here, when Seles defeated Sanchez Vicario. It seems appropriate that two of the latest generation will mark the centenary of women's participation at the French championships. Majoli is a fine player. Hingis is formidable...

#### Christie to race Bailey at 150m

**Athletics** 

Linford Christie is to meet the Olympic 100 metres champion Donovan Bailey in a £50,000 winner-takes-all challenge over

150m in Sheffield on 29 June. The race will be part of the Securicor Games grand prix meeting and comes less than a month after Bailey picked up around £1m for beating Michael

Johnson over 150m in Toronto. Christie has twice beaten Bailey over the rarely-run distance at Sheffield's Don Valley Stadium. The pair will also receive a hefty appearance fee for Britain's first major domestic

meeting of the summer. Christie, who won over 100m and finished fourth in the 200m in the Rome grand prix on Thursday, clocked what is regarded as the fastest automatic time of 14.97sec when he beat Bailey for the first time in 1994, though Italy's Pietro Mennea did clock a manual 14.8 in 1983, Bailey beat Johnson with a time of 14.99 last weekend after his rival had pulled up injured.

In contrast to Bailey's headto-head with Johnson, others will he in the line-up at Sheffield, including Scotland's Ian Mackie, tipped to takle over from Christie as Britain's top sprinter, and John Regis, British record holder over 200 and 300m.

Johnson, meanwhile, who was due to face Roger Bl the 400m at the same meeting. has withdrawn from next week's US championships and will not take part in the World Championships in Athens in August. Only the first three in each event at the US championships will qualify for the American team.

Johnson, Olympic champion over 200 and 400m, severely pulled his left quadricep muscle in Sunday's race with Bailey and has been unable to train since. He still plans to have a European season and hopes to run in Paris on 25 June.

Two others to miss out on the US championships are Mike Powell, the world long jump record holder, who has groin and hip injuries, and Dan O'Brien, the decathlon world record holder, who has a stress fracture.

#### Du Plessis made bold by his belief

ow bold is this on a scale of one to 10?

Carel du Plessis, deified in the western cape as the prince of South African wings but no one's idea of a Springbok coach until he actually landed the job earlier this year, names his first squad amid the fantare and ballyhoo of a live television broadcast and, in the space of 60 dramatic seconds, consigns two of his country's greatest rugby fig-ures to second-class status. Akin, if you like, to Glenn Hoddle bidding an immediate

and Alan Shearer. When Du Plessis announced that Kobus Wiese and Hennie le Roux would not be required for the three-Test series against the Lions - unless, of course, they could spoon-feed him a lavish helping of humble pie by delivering performances of staggering quality for Gaut-eng province over the next week or so - the body politic of Bokke rugbydom dropped its collective jaw at a speed not witnessed since Andre Markgraaff, the previous coach, marginalised François Pienaar

farewell to Paul Gascoigne

and Joel Stransky last autumn. Neither Wiese nor le Roux were much interested in concealing the extent of their flabbergasted anger and, by the time they had finished giving both barrels to their tormentor, their boats appeared to be Plessis? As befitted an honoured member of one of the great Springbok rugby dynasties, he barely batted an eyelid.

"I'm disappointed at their re-actions," said the softly-spoken coach with the merest hint of a shoulder shrug. "I would like them to see their omissions as a challenge. They are quality players but, looking at their form, they can improve. I believe the players coming in have the potential and temperament to perform at the top level and they must also have the chance to establish them-

selves by doing well." All of which suggested that Edrich Lubbe, the young Griquas centre brought in over the head of le Roux, and Krynauw Otto, the thrice-capped lock cepted after his television

**Chris Hewett** on a controversial start for South Africa's new coach

preferred to Wiese, would have to play themselves out of contention before their predeces-sors played themselves back into it. So, what gives Du Plessis, untried and untested as a frontline coach, the confidence to call such a major shot? The answer is simple. Belief.

Born in Somerset East near-ly 37 years ago, Du Plessis was in a member of the Springbok aristocracy from birth and took the silver spoon route to rugby fame and fortune.

He was educated at Stellenbosch University, where he first fell under the all-pervasive influence of Dr Danie Craven, and, after setting the cape alight with the dash and élan of his wing play with Western Province, he followed his brother, Willie, into the national side in 1982. (Another brother, Michael, would also wear the treasured green in the

Thanks to isolation, Du Plessis played only 10 Tests - two against England in '84, four against South American select sides and another four against the ill-fated New Zealand Cavaliers in 1986 but, happily for those north of out on his skills, he branded himself on the British psyche with a truly extraordinary try for the Southern Hemisphere

at Twickenham that same year. Towards the end of his provincial career he moved to Transvaal, and it was there that he first impressed the Lord High Pursuivant himself. Louis Luyt.

Something clicked between the two and when Markgraaff disappeared beneath an avalanche of racist scandal four months ago, Du Plessis was elevated from lowly tactician to top dog: an astonishing gamble, given his lack of coaching experience.

"Yes, my coaching back-ground is very limited," he ac-

appearance in Johannesburg on Monday night, "but I'm confident I have correctly identified certain shortcomings in

Our game.
"It is important to me that we see innovation and initiative from this Springbok side and that we develop a style of rug-by in which the back division acts as the platform from which we play, as opposed to the forwards. That, of course, will not happen overnight and I'm under no illusion that I've taken on one hell of a responsibility. But I'm not overwhelmed at what lies before us. Not by any

Du Plessis will plot the Lions' downfall in the company of Gert Smal, a team-mate at both provincial and Test level. "It's the ultimate," said Smal, a teak-tough flanker who put more than one All Black on the seat of his pants during the Cavaliers' shindig 11 years ago, and to work with Carel is a great opportunity". If successful coaching teams combine the rapier and the bludgeon, this one bears the Real McCoy stamp of authenticity.

Given Du Plessis' credentials as a rugby adventurer - Rian Oberholzer, the chief executive of the South African Rugby Football Union, describes him as a "visionary" - the list of Lions by whom he has already been impressed is eminently predictable.

Guscott," he says, without a second's thought. "Townsend plays in space and sets things up, Howley shows class and Guscott... well, it's hard to believe that England left him out in the cold during the Five Nations, isn't it?

"But they have so many op-

tions in the back-line, with so many good finishers, that the selectors will have a difficult task finding the right combination. One thing is for sure. We have a big series to think about here and we will be op-erating under a great deal of pressure. In today's rugby, the coaching cycle lasts two or three years rather than five or ten; every time your side takes the field, it is a major test of your progress."



Carel du Plessis: 'My coaching background is very limited'

#### Lions tread 'hard yards'

**CHRIS HEWETT** 

The Lions might have been experienced every emotion from the sublime to the unconscionable over the past seven days, but in the jet-set age of Super 12 new dangers lurk around every corner. When the tourists face Northern Transvaal, the Blue Bulls of the high veld, in Pretoria today, they will be up to their necks in what South Africans ominously call

the "hard yards". Ian McGeechan, the Lions' coach, left no-one in any doubt yesterday as to the size of the task before a 40,000-strong crowd at Loftus Versfeld. "Northern Transvaal are the first of South Africa's Super 12 provinces on our programme and we are therefore playing our first game against an elite outfit," he said. If you take the forthcoming

to embark on the toughest month of rughy any of us have ever undertaken." Even though five

players, Andre Snyman, Joost van der Westhuizen, Marius Hurter, Krynauw Otto and Ruben Kruger, are missing from the Bulls because of Springbok commitments, Adriaan Richter, the former international No 8, can still call on a fully capped front row of Danie van Schalkwyk, Henry Tromp and Schutte Bekker. Northern Transvaal may have fallen away in the latter stages of the Super 12 tournament but only weeks ago they were good enough to bold Zinzan Brooke's Auckland side to a draw. "We need to find a new level for this game, it's as simple as that," McGeechan said yesterday.

McGeechan stressed the need for discipline among the Lions. which led rather neatly into the latest developments on the Dod-

Tests into account, we are about die Weir front. Officials from the Moumalanga union viewed a videotane of Wednesday's match in Withank and agreed that the left Weir's left knee in pieces was worthy of further investigation. The union then criticised Nick Beal, the Lions' full-back, for a high tackle on Dan van Zyl, the home scrum-half. Fran Cotton, the Lions' manager, could not be-lieve his ears. "That," he said, "is Obscene." Hard yards indeed.
Northern Transval fe Licos, Pretoria, today; G Bouwer; C Steyn, J Stutte. D van Schallevik, W Loures; R de Manghy, C Breytenbach; L Camprer, H Tramp, P Boer, D Grobbeter, D Badenhost, N van der Weit, A Reither (capt), S Belder, Libbits: T Stelengon (Newcastle and England); J Bentiley (Newcastle and England); J Bentiley (Newcastle and England); G Bother, Libbits: T Stelengon (Newcastle and England); G Townsead (Northernstan and Scotland), R Howley (Cardit end Northernstan and Scotland), R Howley (Cardit end Northernstan and Scotland), R Howley (Cardit end Northernstan and Scotland), R Howley (Leicastle and England), J Loonard (Harleques and England), M Jabasson (Leicastle end England), D Jabasson (Leicastle end England), L Dellingto (Maspa and England), S Quinnell (Richmond end Weise), E Sibhe (Sourcea end Veiled), Replacements: S Gibbs (Sourcea end Weiled), B Cardit and Weise), D Young (Cardit and Weise), P Young (Cardit and Weise), D Youn obscene." Hard yards indeed.

#### Rampant **England** to go for the kill

Phil de Glanville, the England captain, has challenged his side to finish the job and inflict a 2-0 Test series whitewash on Argentina in Buenos Aires

A feat never achieved by any England side would provide the perfect finale to a trip de Glanville admits has exceeded all expectations. "If we could secure a 2-0 win, then this would

rank right up there with the very best England tours," he said. The tourists have averaged exactly 40 points a game during their memorable three-week South American adventure, scoring 28 tries and leaving a lasting impression through their

invigorating, expansive rugby. De Glanville has an 85 per cent Test success rate as captain, while nine new caps have emerged, including burgeoning talents Tony Diprose, Martin Corry and Nick Greenstock.

England, who have have seen two of their most influential players - the Bath pair Mike Catt and Nigel Redman – claimed by the Lions, should have the injured trio Adedayo Adebayo, Kevin Yates and Jim Mallinder on duty today. However, the Harlequins wing Daren O'Leary is on standby for Adebayo, while Mark Mapletoft has been handed the key fly-half

role in place of Catt. Argentina have made two changes from the side outclassed in the first Test, Carlos Promanzio replacing the injured Federico Mendez and the flanker Ignacio Fernandez-Lobbe coming in for Pablo Bouza.

DOULZI.
ARGENTINA (v England, Buenes Aires, today): E Jarnado (Rosano); T Sotari (Hindut,
E Simone (Loco Navai), L Arbizu (Belgano,
capt), F Sotar (Reta; G Quesada (Hindut,
Fermandes-Miranda (Hindut); R Grau (Guteng-Lons), C Promanzio (Rosano), M Regglanda (Castres), P Sporteder (Curupa)(t), G
Lianes (Bath), R Mardin (San Isido), P Camerlackio (Bela Vista), I Fermandez Lotbe (Loco
Navai), Replacements: C Burree (Cortobe

1884), Replacements: C Burree (Cortobe

#### Bradamante's daring move

Cycling

John Merricks and Ian Walker aboard Tim Barrett's Bradamante executed a daring move during the ninth of the 11 races in the Mumm 36 World Championships to move into equal-sixth place overall (with a protest pending), writes Stuart Alexan-

der in Punta Ala, Italy. Merricks and Walker steamed into a turning mark with their opponents bearing down and, though they did not have the right of way, the ever-growing confidence of the crew was in evidence as they flicked the yacht into a slot just inches wider than their boat to move up to side and a possible penalty, but achieve a top-five place. 

Their hopes of a podium place were upset by the Brazilian Torben Grael in heavy traffic going into the windward mark. They made an emergency tack to avoid a collision with Grael, hit the mark, had to take a penalty turn and dropped from fifth to near last. They finished 14th, and even a successful protest will leave them with a difficult job in fourth position. It flirted with off-

meant they remained in a challenging position even though they then lost a place to the man who was winning his second consecutive world championship, Tomas Friese of Germany in I Punkt. However, the fifth placing put them into equal-third going into the day's final race.

Athletics

GOLDEN GALA NAF Grand Prix (selected results): Men: 100mr 1 L Christle (GB) 10.20se; 2 D Aiu (Ngeria) 10.20 3 D E-Inia (Ngeria) 10.20; 4 R Steauer (Jem) 10.27; 5 B Surn (Can) 10.30. 200mr 1 F Fredericks (Nam) 20.24; 2 P Steauer (Jem) 10.27; 5 B Surn (San) 20.24; 2 P Steauer (Jem) 10.27; 5 B Surn (US) 20.60; 4 L Christle (GB) 20.67; 800mr 1 W Kipister (Den) 1mm 43.54sec; 2 N Tellez (Oatha) 1.24.35; 3 A Long (td) 1.24.40, 800m (Groups 8): 1 P Fronchelmin (Nen) 1mm 45.82sec; 6 C Wintow (GB) 1.24.50, 1500mr 1 H E Guerroli (Mor) 3.30.59; 2 A Horita (Ini) 3.33.54; 8 W Innu (Nen) 3.35.10; 4 A Winterman (GB) 3.35.38, 110m handless 1 M Crepr (US) 13.32; 2 A Green (Cale) 13.34; 3 F Schwarton (GR) 3.35. Short: 1 A Bagsach (Ner) 20.91mr 2 S O Butter (Gen) 20.17; 3 K Toni (US) 19.98. Weamen: 200mr 1 M Trandenions (Rus) 22.79; 2 M Frazer (Jem) 22.84; 3 I Curher (Jem) 22.90; 6 M Ottey (Jem) 23.18. 800m; 1 A F Quiror (Char) 158.79; 3 S Masserson (Rus) 158.79; 3 S Masserson

Australian rules AFL: Richmont 11.11 (77), Collingwood 10.11

nesota C.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinetti 6 Houston 5; AlNATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinetti 6 Houston 5; AlNATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinetti 6 Louis 3; New
York Mets 6 Florida C; Coloratio 9 San Diego
7 (1.1 innings); Privederbina 9 Crucago 8 (10
Innings); San Francisco 5 Los Angeles 4.

Basketball Lelcester City Riders have signed the 5tt 8in point guard Geno Ford, formerly of Ohio University. Ford holds stx top 10

PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION (Whitehorch Sports Centre, Bristol): 12rd WBC intermitional light-heavyweight title: A Galley (Bi) is 7th. 13rd super-intermitional light-heavyweight title: A Galley (Bi) is 7th. 13rd super-intermitional light-heavyweight (Brown of Calzegie (Newbridge) stopped I. Torres (Brazil) 3rd. 3rd cruises-weight: K (Diver (Urncoln) bt D Westover (Intermitional Lange and Calzegie) bt S Stokes (Sheffield) pts. Grd light-paid-demensight: W Alexander (Canard) at K (Nathrau (Doncasser) to 4th. Grd middleweight: D Donnigon (Bristol) bt. P Carr (Sidoup) pts.

Cythang (Passo Del Yomie): 20th shape (176 km, from Brunico): 1 J Gorgalez (Colorn) Kelme ## 45mm 3sec; 2 M Podersone Un + 1mm 43sec behmu; 3 F Putin (Sast) Ceramiche Refin +2:10; 4 G Missaghe (i) Mapel +3:02; 5 F Dott (ib Ros Mary Ir. Overall standings: 1,1 Gott (i) 95th 15:min 48sec; 2 P Torkov (Rus) +1:32 behing; 3 G G weed (ii) +4:00.

Football Alen Bolesic, the 27-year-old Croatian

striker, has returned to the Italian Se-rie A side Lazio for around £7.5m, atter only a year with Juventus. Argentina's World Cup-winning cosch from 1978, Cesar Luls Menotti, is leav-ing the Buencs Aires club, Independi-ente, for the Italian club, Sampdoria. Goran Eriksson, who is joining Lazio. Leeds United have asked for their first

two Premiership floures next season to be played away from home, so that the newly seeded Bland Road pitch can have more time to thrive. George Courtney, the former Fifa referee, has been elected president of the Northern League. The Durham head-

FRENCH OPEN TENNIS RESULTS

Seeded players in capitals Men's singles Semi-finals: G Kuerten, (Bra) bt F Dewulf (Bel) 6-1 3-6 6-1

7-6; S BRUGUERA (Sp) bt P Ratter (Aus) 67617576 Women's doubles semi-final: G FER-NANDEZ (US) and N ZVEREVA (Beta) bt M HINGES (Switt) and A SANCHEZ VICARED

(Sp) 3-6 7-6 10-8.

Girts' doubles semi-finat; C Black (Zim) and I Seljutine (Kaz) bt K Cheveller and C Popescu (Can) 6-3 7-6; M Materizo and K Srebotnik (Sloven) bt A Sebove and G

Today's matches Women's singles final: M HiNGIS (Swr) v i MAJOLI (Croa). Men's doubles final: TWOODERIDGE AND

M WOODFORDE (Aus) V Y KAFELNIKOV (Rus) and D VACEK (Cz Rep). Mixed doubles final: L RAYMOND and P GALBRATTH (US) v R Hiraki (Japan) and M

master has acted as a Premier League assessor since he retired as a top-flight Burnley have agreed a fee of around £200,000 for the 32-year-old Sheffield United midfielder Mark Patterson. Manchester City have ended their in-terest in signing the Ipswich Town de-tender, Tony Vaughan, after fabing to agree personal terms. Pleasure (Lam) rockers 9 14-0 - 1315.49. 4 Balaza (Hur) and A Jolan (Hur) Potache 911 105.54, 5 F Stang (Mus) and S Illman (GB) Porsche 911 1:07.04, 6 T Daly/Mus) and B Brit (Aus) Ford Mustaing 1:07.29. Selected: 10 J Ingleby (GB) and M Ingleby (GB) Ford Mustaing 1:10.47.

agree personal terms.
Australia's coech Terry Venables, said yesterday he would enlist Pifa's help to force Croadia Zagreb to release the striker Mark Viduka for World Cup duty next week, after claiming the club had blocked his return home. Venables said the Croatian League and Cup double-winners failed to respond to several requests to make Viduka available for this month's Oceania qualifying tournament in Sydney. SUPER LEASURE VISA WORLD CLUB CHAM-PIONSHIP Pool A: Brisbane (12) 42, Lon-don (18) 22. Brisbane: Tries Walters 2. Carol, Lockyr, Nurdre, Rerout, Salor, Conb. Lockyr 7. London: Tries Rostel 2. Baseley, Durcer; Goels Bernick 3. (18,190).

THURSDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Ellio League: Ipswich 51. Bradford 39. Presider League: Shaffeld 44 Reading 46.

collect the trophy at Surbiton. The No 1 seed, ranked 37 in the world, will now continue his warm-up next week at Queen's before he attempts to match his last four appearance in 1996 when he lost to eventual winner, Richard Krajicek. The final, played in a blustery wind, hinged on the tie-break in the first set when Stolle missed several chances to open up an advantage.

Three British players, Sam Smith of Es-sex, Shiri-Ann Siddall from Bournemouth and Lucie Ahl from Exeter, have been given wild cards into the main draw at the DFS Women's Classic at the Edg-baston Priory Club, Birmingham, next WEEKEND FIXTURES

(at Graces) saadure, Sioppe group Make Portugal v Albania (9.30) . (at Estadio das Antas, Portol Ulgaine v Germany (7.30). (at Republica stadius, Key purpopulas unpublica at cult OPEAN UNDER-21 CH

INDI DE FRANCE ice y England (7.45) ... a Mosson stadium, Mor Rugby League

VISA WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHE North Queensland v Leeds (10.30am) Rugby Union RITERNATIONAL MATCH: Argentina v England (7.30) (at FCO Ground, Buenos Aires).

7.30 unles somed EUTE LEASUE: Swindon v Bradford. PREMIER LEASUE: Semach v Newport (6.30), PREMIER LEAGUE KNOCK-OUT CUP: Stoke v

TOUR MATCH: Northern Transacal v British Lions

Other sports GNAME: Europeen Junior Chempio Pistonal Indoor Arens, Deminghan prescons regory Arens, permignent, BOUT: Staley Hall Grann Pix of Europe (Staley Hall, Hardward; Jarasy Sentore Open (La Mayer); Battath Am-seuer Championaship (Rayai St. George's & Rayai Cangle Ports). MOYTORCYCLIMG: Isle of Man TT Roces.

NALLYME: Scriptch Fally (Dumines). SHOOKEPI; World Latites' Championehip (Lianelli),

TOMORROW Football

HORLD CUP GROUP ON Denstark v Bossia (2.0) ... jet Perista stasikra, Čopeniu (a. react soluter, Copering GROUP THREE Fisins of Asschaller (3.0), Let Olymbia steller, Holsiel Hundlery v Moresty (7.0) — (or Nep Steller, Budapesy GROUP POUR Belseus v Scotlend (2.0), Let Dynamo Steller, Minsky Estonis v Sweden (2.0), Let Nobris v Sweden (2.0).

GROUP SIX
Furne Islands v Maita (3.0)
Constanting Student 701 Rangkeider Starbum. Foren in v Coech Republic (7-15) ... Staello Akuso José Zofilla, Yask Saturia v Stovalda (7-0)...... Ing Star stadkum. Belgrade) Rugby League

Speedway SLITE LEAGUE: Eastroume v Swindon (3.30)

Other sports

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: World League: Scotten Clay mores v London Menerche (3,0) (at Murray/feld, Ed

Tricking II.

BOOMRE European Lainor Chemplonships Invite (No-tional lation Anna, Brinningson),

BOULTS Soley Holl Brand Phs of Buspe (Sidley Holl, Hecham); Sanny Service (Sidley Holl, Hecham); Sanny Service (Sidley Holl, SMOOKER: World Ladies' Cremponship (Umpali).

250,000

#### / coping top cats

he inspiration

2.5 . . . . . . .

tains," Italy's Ivan Gotti remained on course for the overall Gotti, trying to become the victory. first Italian in six years to triumph in the Giro, stayed with Pavel Tonkov, the defending champion and his main rival, throughout the 176 kilometres in the Dolomites from Brunico to Passo del Tonale.

Gotti holds Tonkov at bay Russia's Tonkov, who started and ended the day Imin 32sec behind Gotti, rode despite el-Jose Gonzalez confirmed his bow and knee injuries suffered status as the top climber in the in a numble during a downhill Giro d'Italia yesterday with a section in the 19th leg. Twentyconvincing win in the 20th stage. one riders pulled out following While the Colombian re-Thursday's tough stage, leaving

tained the green jersey assigned 114 out of the 180 starters. to the race's King of the Moun-Tonkov attempted to pull away from Gotti on three occassions, but the Italian kept pace each time. The top two in the overall standings finished the day 10min 10sec behind Gonzalez, who pulled away from the lead group on the closing climb and was timed at 4hr 45min 03sec, having started his attack after about 10 kilometres.

Boys' doubles semi-final: J De Amas, (Non and L Horna (Per) bt 0 Levant (F) and J Lisnard (F) 6-2 6-2; A Di Pasquale, and J Leanglerre (F) bt E Agaev (Can) and A Ram (lar) 6-4 1-6 6-3.

SPORTING DIGEST **Athletics** 

ENGREGIO AND LEAGUE: Boston 2 Milhitaulice 1: Claveland 5 Chicago 4 (11.1 mongs); Scende 14 Detroit 6; Oekland 4 Toronao 3; Teras 6 Kansas City 3 (11.1 innings); Archelm 3 Minhands (1.

pommel horse routine.

Gymnastics Li Donghus, the Olympic gold medal-ist, escaped with minor injuries from an

ice hockey NHL: Play-off Snels: Detroit 6 Philadelphis 1 (Detroit lead best-of-seven series 3-0). Rallying

Rugby League

month's Oceania qualifying tourna-ment in Sydney.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21. CHAMPSONSHEP Group Two (Post): Georga 1 Moldows O.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY Pre-season the Torquey, 25 July: Eyest, 23 July: Torquey, 25 July: Plymouth. 29 July: Leiden (Nett), 31 July: Willern II Tiburg (Nett), 2 Au-gust: Sparta Rottentam (Nett), 4 Aug. Hud-destfield.

KEMPER OPEN (Potomac, Maryfand):
Landing first-round scores (US unless sizt-ed): 66 G Norman (Aus), N Proc (Zm), 67
J Sturman, N Gibson, P Stanlowski. 68 M
Springer, A Doyle, M Hulbert, B Cremtraw, T
Lahman, O Unesti, 69 S Lyb (CB), P Michaelon, J Landard, T Herron, J Morse, L Wardens,
M Brooks, T Kite, T Smith, J Carter, S McRoy,
J Melly, S Jones, D A Weltong, J Hass, P
Azinger, M Wiebe, B Hughes (Aus), 70 J-M
Okazabai (SD), R Alamon (Mes), K Horokawa
Lenani, T I, E Bis (SA), S Appley (Aus). Clazate I Sp), R Alamon (Mes), K Horolawe (Jepan, 71. E B; (SA), S Appleby (Mes), P Istaurard (Mz, 7s Vergi (Fil), C Pany (Mes), N Fator (SB), D Frost (SA), 74.) Pameuk (Swa), 75 G Watte (Mz), T Bjorn (Den), 78 H Nose (Jepan, So F Alfem (SA), AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP (Royal St George's, Sandwich): Quarter-fizate: C Edwards (Bath) bt B Howard (Cochrene Cas-de) 1 nois; T immelmens (SA) bt S Lutie (Aloor Parid 4 and 3; C Watson (Evet Renfresshine) bt J Chie (Benbowel at 19th; D Griffins (Weat Herrs) bt B Meson (Send Moor) 1 hole, Semi-finalis: Watson bt Edwards 1 hole.

car crash on a Swiss motorway, Li, who left China for Switzerland in 1988, last year won his adopted country's first gym-nastics gold since 1952 with a flowless

Rugby Union

TOLIR MATCHES (Wengami, NZ): Wangarul 19 Fiji 28. (Tempo, NZ): King Country 32 tre-land A 26.

Jason Stoltenberg began his preparations for Wimbledon in perfect style with a straight sets victory in the final of the Surrey Grass-Court Championships. Stotizarberg, a Wimbledon semi-finalist last year, defeated his fellow Australian Sandon Stotie 7-6, 6-4 to

SURREY GRASS COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS (Surbiton): Meen's final: J Stotleriberg (Jus) to S Stotle (Aus) 7:6 6-4. Women's semi-finale: 7 Temasugam (Thai) bt S Noorlander (Neth) 6-3 8-2; A Otsza (Pol) bt M Guse (Aus) 6-2.3-66-1. Women's doubtee final: C Barckley (Aus) and K Guse (Aus) bt D Graham (US) and K Kunse (Aus) 3-6 6-4 7-6. Exhibiton semiches: B Black (Zim) bt T Herman (GS) 7-6 3-6 6-3; G Rusadski (GB) bt M Chang (US) 7-6 4-6 6-1. SURREY GRASS COURT CHAMPIONSHIPS

TODAY'S **NUMBER** 

The number of pounds that Peter Barton, of Southport, will win if his 15-year-old daughter Gemma referees the FA Cup final by the time she is 40. Mr Barton has placed a bet of £50 at 5,000-1 with William Hill.

#### **Scholes** doubt for **England**

Football

**GLENN MOORE** reports from La Baule



The extent to which Glenn Hoddle's England have become an international team of genuine quality will be thorough-

ly tested in Montpellier tonight. Italy may, or may not, have been in the mood on Wednesday night in Nantes, but there will be no questioning France's commitment. As hosts for next summer's World Cup, Le Tournoi de France is the nearest thing they are going to have to competitive football.

The match is an attractive one, not least because Glenn Hoddle is hoping to pair Alan Shearer and Paul Scholes in attack. While Shearer's partnership with Teddy Sheringham remains the first choice, Sheringham is 31, five years older than Shearer and nine years senior to Scholes, and will not be a key figure for too many more

The move is dependent on Scholes recovering from a tight hamstring which forced him to curtail training yesterday afternoon. It was, said Hoddle, probably a reaction to the effort that he had put in against Italy.

"I want to play him to see if he can reproduce that performance," the England coach said. "It will tell me more about his temperament under pressure. Once you have set a standard like that it is hard to maintain it. If he can I might think we have really found a player."

Rob Lee will also need a fitness test on a sore foot, but Paul Gascoigne will play. Martin Keown is ruled out with an arm injury and Paul Ince could be rested. Hoddle admitted he had left Shearer out on Wednesday as he did not want the Italians to get another look at him. They have not seen the real Alan Shearer," he said -Shearer was carrying a groin injury when he played against Italy in February.

Shearer was very impressed with Scholes' full debut. "If it was not for Eric Cantona, he would be a regular for Manchester United and England by now," he said.

France have made eight changes from the side who drew I-1 with Brazil on Tuesday more by application than inspiration. Among those left out is Zinedine Zidane, who looked jaded after a long season with Juventus. He was similarly tired and ineffectual during Euro '96 and his condition is a concern to the French as he is supposed to provide the midfield lockpicking which is so crucial at international level. This will especially apply to France next summer as they are the home team and will be under pressure to push forward.

This could help England's re-cent adoption of a counter-attacking style, though the French defence, marshalled by the superb Laurent Blanc, will be formidable. They have lost once in 34 matches, but need to win more often, to that end Youri Diorkaeff has been handed Zidane's playmaking role and Christophe Dugarry and Nicolas Ouedec are give a chance to

end France's scoring problem. England are based on the Atlantic coast in La Baule 520 miles from tonight's game in Montpellier. This is not the result of an FA blunder, but part of Hoddle's long-term planning. His intention is to recreate Bisham Abbey, England's Berkshire training base, in France next year.

To this end England are considering basing themselves here, an hour's drive from Nantes, and fly in and out for matches. For evening games they would fly in on the day and sleep in the afternoon. Hoddle said he often did this when he was playing for Monaco and would be asking the squad for their reaction.

#### **Barcelona look to Fifa**

Barceiona have made a lastditch effort to stop Ronaldo moving to internazionale by invoking a Fifa rule that would prevent his unnegotiated transfer to a non-Spanish club.

Inter had looked likely to pay the 4.5bn pesetas (£19m) stipulated in Ronaldo's contract as the price needed to release him from his obligations with Barcelona. It is normal practice in Spain for players to sign contracts including such withdrawal clauses, but the world governing body recognises such contracts only for transfers within

mo Moratti, said: "We are sur- years.

prised. I have put the matter in the hands of able lawyers in Italy and Spain. I hope to understand the situation better."

as coach of Borussia Dortmund, just over a week after the club won the European Cup. Hitzfeld is to take on the role of sports director at the club.

ended his 13-year management reign at Woking by leaving the GM Vauxhall Conference club to take charge of the Icis League Premier Division team. Kingstonian. Chapple has steered the Surrey side to three The Inter president. Massi- FA Trophy wins in the last four

Ottmar Hitzfeld has resigned

Geoff Chapple yesterday



Christophe Dugarry of Milan, Patrick Vielra of Arsenal and Youri Djorkaeff of Internazionale, three recent exports from the French 'football factory'

#### **Experts in the export business**

England are not only playing a country in Montpellier today, they are taking on a footballer factory. In the last few years France has become one of the biggest producers of footballers in Europe, surpassed only by the countries of the former Yugoslavia, traditionally the continent's leading exporter.

Just this week Arsenal signed two more French players while, in Italy. Alain Boghossian moved from Napoli to Sampdoria on a £300,000-a-year contract. None of these players are even in the French Tournoi de France squad. though Bochossian did join two players who are: Christian Karembeu and Pierre Laigle.

They are two of nine Italianbased players in the French With others in England (Franck Leboeuf and Patrick Vieira), Spain and Germany, only seven of the 22 still play in France and several of those, like Bruno N'Gotty and Robert Pires, are constantly linked with

Despite these exports French clubs have become successful in Europe after many years of fail-ure. Marseilles' 1993 Champions' Cup success - France's first European trophy - may be cloud-ed by bribery allegations but Paris St-Germain have reached the last two Cup-Winners' Cup finals, winning in 1996. That year Bordeaux reached the Uefa Cup final, while Monaco and Auxerre have also made an impact. All of this has been achieved with very

combine technical ability with physical resilience, a combination most evident, to differing degrees, in Didier Deschamps of Juventus. The emergence of players

to other countries because they

like Deschamps, his team-mate Zinedine Zidane, and others like Marcel Desailly, Lilian Thuram and Karembeu is one reason why the Football Association's Charter for Quality, the new coaching initiative, draws heavily from the French example.
This may seem odd when to-

day's squads run out. While England can offer Phil and Gary Neville, David Beckham, Paul Scholes and Sol Campbell. only Vieira is under 23 in the French squad. However, that party, which also has only two players over 29, has been together over a period of several years with the express aim of peaking for next year's World

Cup which the French host. Below this group the production line shows no sign of faltering. France are in the World Under-20 Championships in Malaysia later this month and on Thursday won the prestigious Toulon tournament, beating Portugal - whose own youth system is renowned - in the final.

England, though they are also in Malaysia, are heavily reliant on the success of a few outstanding youth development schemes, primarily at Manchester United, and, more latterly, the FAs own national French players are attractive school. The shake-up proposed a new youth coach. Clubs like

**Glenn Moore** on the French youth programme that is the envy of Europe

by Howard Wilkinson is long overdue -- the French began reviewing their system more than 20 years ago.

We changed our methods in said Arsène Wenger, Arsenal's French manager. "We have a professional detection of young players and work with them from very early on. From 14 to 20 they train every day. The quality of coaching is very good."

There have been two strands

to their progress. The first came from the clubs which realised they did not have the resources to compete with the bettersupported and sponsored giants of western Europe and thus began breeding players instead of buying them. This trend was led by clubs like Nantes (who produced Deschamps, Desailly and Karembeu) and Guy Roux's Auxerre, who have gone from a park club to the Champions' League. The wealthier French clubs, like PSG and Marseilles, were slow to catch on but now

have similar schemes. Talented young players are brought to the club, housed and schooled. Coaches have to be far better qualified than in the UK and have much greater security of tenure - in England a change of manager often means Arsenal and Crystal Palace are as the new Platini but is yet to trying to change that by making independent appointments. France went on to win the

1984 European Championship, but when they failed to qualify for the 1990 World Cup in neighbouring Italy it was decided more needed to be done. Gerard Houllier was ap-

pointed Technical Director and he set up a national coaching network with schools of excellence, developed the fledgling national coaching centre and football institute at Clairefontaine, and invested heavily in the national youth teams. It is elements of this system the FA are seeking to copy.

However, success has brought its problems. The steady exodus of players may be good for the national team, which benefits from their experience, but it is devaluing the national league. leaving it even more vulnerable to depredations.

Alarmingly, French players are now being poached as teenagers, with Arsenal's controversial acquisition of Nicolas Anelka not an isolated case. Juventus have recently lured an 18-year-old defender, Saliou Lassissi, away from Rennes and a 17-year-old goalkeeper, Sebastien Frey, from Cannes.

Then there is the nature of the players being produced. They are very good technically but some regard them as being over-coached and lacking the imagination of predecessors such as Michel Platini and Alain Giresse. Zidane is billed

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

perform well for the national side in major competition.

Another concern is for the players who do not make it. The non-footballing education that young players receive in their hothouse development is, said one French journalist, "good only for a weak job. They end up playing part-time with a job being found by the chairman or sponsor but, at 30, it's over. For every 10 or 20 players who come through, 80 disappear."

Youth development is not a precise science. Paul Rideout was a sensation at 15 but never went on to play for England, Shaun Brooks, son of the former international Johnny, was tipped for great things but spent most of his career at Orient. By contrast, the young Ian Wright was ignored by the professional game and learned his trade

The French have their own examples. Ibrahim Ba, the exciting 23-year-old right-winger, had four clubs before he was 18, with PSG among the clubs which rejected him. Juventus-bound Lasssi was turned away by Nantes.

But while some will always disappoint, or emerge late, a well-structured and resourced system can only be of benefit. The English FA is finally recog-nising this but it will take time to catch up. At present the French are pulling further away - in January they launched a scheme in harness with the government to improve school football for eight-year-olds.

#### Scotland face trip into the unknown

Fallor in the of Re

PHIL SHAW

Scotland, having taken the talance of points from Austria and come out even with Sweden. must guard against their almost traditional generosity to sup-posedly weaker countries when the World Cup campaign re-sumes against Belarus in Minsk tomorrow.

If February's draw with Estonia in Monaco did not quite rank alongside Costa Rica and Iran in the litany of largesse, its impact on Scottish hopes of advancing from Group Four to France might have to be reassessed should Craig Brown's under-strength team fail to beat Belarus.

Victory in their last three Group Four games - the Scots conclude at home to Latvia and Belarus - would guarantee at least second place and a strong chance of qualification. Anything less and Scotland will be reduced to relying on the three former Soviet republics to take points off Austria and Sweden.

The match represents a trip into the unknown in more respects than Brown would have liked. Their maugural meeting with Belarus (they are the first British side to play there) also finds him forced into major adjustments to his tried and

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trusted defence. In the absence of the two Coiins, Hendry and Calderwood, who are both recovering from surgery, the Scotland manager used the friendlies against Wales and Malta to evaluate the merits of Christian Dailly, David Weir and Brian McAllister. While the latter pair were unconvincing, Brown has little option other than to use one with Tom Boyd and Dailly in a back three.

Doubts over that department are counter-balanced by Paul Lambert's return after his European Cup heroics. The Dortmund player may be deputed to pick up Valentin Belkevich. whom Brown likens to Georgi Kinkladze. Belkevich, he warned topically, puts a "Brazil-ian bend" on his free-kicks.

The injury to John Collins in Malta provides a further dilemma. Darren Jackson could replace him in midfield, letting Gordon Durie in up front. though that would mean splitting up the burgeoning partnership between Jackson and

Kevin Gallacher. "We'll go out with a positive attitude and I'm asking the players for one final effort at the end said. "I rate Belarus on a par with Latvia, who we did well to beat in Riga. But if we could get a goal I'd hope some of their players might lose interest, with us be-

ing top and them bottom."
Two years ago today, Belarus beat the Netherlands 1-0 in a European Championship qualifier. Despite their inability to build on that triumph, Brown is only too aware that two-thirds of their squad play with leading Moscow clubs and will be underestimated at Scotland's peril.

SCOTIAND (probable: 3-1.4-2): Leighton (h-bernian): Dailly (Derby), Weir (Hearts), Boyd (Cettc); Lambert (Dortmund); Burley (Chesses), Jackson (Hiberman); Burley (Chesses), Taledoniay (Cetic); Gallacher

#### **Brisbane win battle of the Broncos**

**Rugby League** 

DAVE HADFIELD

Brisbane drew first blood for Australia in the Battle of the Broncos that opened the World Club Championship yesterday morning, but London gave them a scare before running out of steam to lose 42-22.

The British side recovered from an early 12-point deficit, with tries by Andrew Duncan, Robbie Beazley and two - setting a new club scoring record - from Scott Roskell. But then they lost Shaun Edwards, who had inspired their fightback after coming on as a first-half substitute, with a hamstring injury.

Motorcycling

Alex Criville upstaged his Hon-

da team-mate, Michael Doo-

han, in vesterday's opening

practice session for the French Grand Prix at Le Castellet.

the 2.35-mile track in 1min

21.456sec. Doohan, the reign-

ing world champion and world

him once this season in the

Spanish Grand Prix," Criville

Italy's Doriano Romboni, on

said. "I know I can do it again."

an Aprilia, clocked the third

fastest time of 1:21.916.

The Spaniard was fastest on

Brisbane, league leaders in Australia, immediately recaptured the lead through Darren Lockyer, who also kicked seven from seven, and ran away with it in the last quarter, as the long journey and a heavy penalty count caught up with London.

boys captain, Ian Roberts, misses today's match against Leeds with a knee injury, but their Test hooker, Steve Walters, is fit to face a full strength Headingley

The North Queensland Cow-

Salford go into their game in Adelaide tomorrow under the shadow cast by the life ban on their former captain, Ian Blease, for assaulting a touchjudge. "They will be shocked at

On the Isle of Man, the Ulsterman Phillip McCallen

charged to a winning double on

the final day of the 90th An-

niversary TT races. The 33-

year-old Portadown racer

comfortably won the Production

race and then took the festival's

The Production race was cut

to two laps because of uncertain

weather, but McCallen over-

and dry sections. He rode a cal-

culated, cautious race, heading

off the early challenge of

Ducati's Ian Simpson to secure

Honda's 90th success on the Is-

land as he rode home.

six-lap Senior race.

championship leader, was sec-ond in 1:21.737. "I've beaten course with a mixture of damp

the severity of the sentence, because Ian is a highly-respected team-mate to all of them." the club's chairman, John Wilkinson, said. "I hope they will be professional enough not to be affected by it. Blease, who has an excellent

disciplinary record over his long career, is taking the weekend to decide whether to lodge an ap-Also in Australia tomorrow, Halifax face a formidable task

against Canberra Raiders, while in Europe Warrington, Castleford and Paris all open up with home fixtures.

Warrington have Salesi Finau back from suspension on the wing and - importantly- Paul

Criville promises to become king of Le Castellet

"It was really great to get out

there and win again," said Mc-Callen, who crashed at high

speed during Monday's 250cc

race. "I had a fine physiother-

apist working on me. I took it easy from the first half-lap,

then upped the pace, but I was

pretty careful throughout.

There are some awkward damp

his defeat in Wednesday's Ju-

nior race by Scotland's Ian

Simpson. The Dalbeattie rider

on a Ducati had to be content

McCallen's victory avenged

natches around the course."

fancied Cronulla Sharks. Castleford, bottom of the

league in Europe, switch Adrian Vowles back to his usual position of stand-off in place of the injured Graham Steadman, while Paris face an in-form Hunter Mariners, who beat Brisbane last week.

England and Wales will come together as Great Britain for the 1998 World Cup, which will be staged in three countries in the Southern hemisphere. Papua New Guinea will stage World Cup matches for the first time. the International Board decided at its meeting in Paris yesterday. Twelve teams, including for nation with pride.

despite always holding the up-

per hand, locked in a fierce duel

with Glaswegian Jim Moodie aboard the V-Twin 500cc Hon-

Windermere's Bob Jackson

threatened an upset when lead-

ing after two laps as he adopt-

ed a one-stop refuelling strategy

- all the other riders pitted

twice. However, McCallen com-

fortably headed him off and the

Kawasaki rider finished an

"It was an enjoyable, perfect

end to the week - I rode care-

da Grand Prix bike.

eventual third.

with second place, ahead of Preston's Simon Beck.

There was better to come in the Senior race, with McCallen, his victory by 8.7sec over

Sculthorpe fit again after a the first time the New Zealand chest injury to face the highly-Maoris, will be split into four pools, two in Australia and one each in New Zealand and Papua New Guinea when the competition is held in the autumn of next year. The chairman of the Maori

Rughy League, John Tamihere. said: "This is a wonderful day in the history of both the Maori nation and the code of rugby league in New Zealand. We are proud and delighted to receive the invitation and we look forward immensely to the challenge. We clearly support our sovereign body, the New Zealand Rugby League, but land, on the Poles. we hope to represent the Maori

Moodie. It was McCallen's third

win of the week, and his 11th in

total on the island.

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SOCC GRAND PRIX (Is Castallet, Prance)
Landing practice times: 1 A Crede (S) Honde 1mn 21.455sec; 2 M Dooran (Aust Honde
1:21.137; 3 D Rombon off Archa 1:21.9;6; 4
Checa (Spi Horde 1:21.977; 5 T Order (Japan)
Honds 1:22.061; 6 L Castalora (In Yembre
1:22.737; 7 A Pulg (Spi Honde 1:22.562; 8 I
Bore (Spi Horde 1:22.566; 9 A Berros (Bra) Honde 1:22.742; 10 D Beather (Aust Sumis 1:22.892,
14.46 milas); 3 P McCallen (Motorcycle Cry
CRESDORF Honds 39.062; 4 M Pyrn /750
Samid 39: 28.9; 5 J Hodson (1:000 Yamaha)
29:32.8; 7 A Berrailet (G) MCC CRESDORF Honds
39:41.4; 9 M Rutter (MM CRESDORF Honds)
39:42.5; 10 J Moode (750 Sumis) 39:59.8; 9enior more (8 Juny 2.28.38 millers); 1 P McCallen
(Honda RCAS); 117:530n; 30:520; 119:55mph;
2 J Moode (1750 Sumis) 39:59.8; 9enior more (8 Juny 2.28.38 millers); 1 P McCallen
(Honda RCAS); 117:530n; 30:520; 119:55mph;
2 J Moode (1750 Sumis) 39:59.8; 9ealoccon (Naccaste); 1:54:50.8; 6 S Beck (Naccaste); 1:54:50.8; 6 S D Young (Romes)

1 1:56:04.4; 5 D Young (Romes)

#### If anyone slags us off after that, they need beheading. Darren Gough, on England's memorable first day of the Ash-

Where's the nearest classical musical shop? I need some

soothing music. Geoff Marsh, Australia's coach. The boulevard of dreams is still alive. Jonathan Pearce, C5 commentator, after England's second goal against Poland.

It was an injury collected in armed combat. Glenn Hoddle England coach, on the gashed calf suffered by Paul Gascoigne. Even in the tunnel I looked at them and knew we were in for a kicking. Paul Inca, of Eng-

What I enjoyed was the other players' faces. Their eyes popped because they could not believe it. Roberto Carlos after his banana free-kick for Brazil in the Tournoi de France It will be different in Rome, there will be 80,000 screaming italians for a start. Glenn Hod-die, England coach, after Eng-land's *Tournol* win over Italy.

He dion't pull up. He's a cow-

and. Donovan Balley on Michael Johnson, after the 150m head-to-head in Toronto. I'm not Mother Teresa. I'm not here to do charity work for anybody. Marc Rosset, Swiss tennis player, asked if he felt sympathy for his fellow French Open competitors on a windy

■ Their remarkable successes over the last 12 months lend force to the argument that the city is now the sporting capital of England. Tony Banks, Sports Minister, pays tribute to the city of Leicester.

#### Watson out of sight

ANDY FARRELL reports from Royal St George's

Better men than Craig Watson have driven out of bounds on the 14th hole here but, despite doing it twice in his semi-final

yesterday, the 31-year-old Scot

progressed to today's 36-hole final of the Amateur Champion-Bernhard Langer, that most methodical of strategists, patiently explained why he hit an iron off the 14th tee for three days when the Open Champion-ship visited Sandwich in 1993. On the final day Langer took a

driver, sliced it out of bounds and lost his chance of catching Greg Norman. Watson, who works in his family's lighting shop in Falkirk when not playing golf, could have had his hopes extinguished when he lost two halls on the adjoin-

ing Prince's course to go onedown to Bath's Colin Edwards. Despite the greatness of the prize - the Amateur champion is annually invited to the US Masters - the Scottish international maintained his usual phlegmatic air. "I was beginning to get excited but the 14th kept

that in check," he said. Having chipped in at the ninth to start a run of three holes won, Watson, who turned to a long-handled putter two weeks ago, got up and down at the 15th to square the match. He halved the next from a birdies to join his friend and ri-

ping in, and then won the 17th after Edwards drove into a bunker. Edwards' putt at the last to continue the game only just missed before Watson holed from three feet for the victory.

It was the second time in the day Edwards had faced Barclay Howard, who caddied for Watson. Edwards, who has 52 caps for England, had beaten the Walker Cup man at the last in the quarter-finals after making "one of the best swings of my life" at the 18th hole, Edwards hit a five-iron to four feet while Howard slipped down into Duncan's Hollow.

Watson will today face the South African Trevor Immelman, who will be attempting to become the first overseas winner for seven years and the youngest champion, beating the record of his countryman Bobby Cole, who was 18 when he won in 1966. Immelman, the only winner of his national junior and senior Amateur titles. in the same year, won the battle of the 17-year-olds when he recovered from being three down with eight to play against West Herts' David Griffiths to win by one hole:

Nick Price and Greg Norman share the lead after the open-ing round of the Kemper Open in Potomac, Maryland. Price, displaying ominously good form before next week's US Open, parred every hole on the front nine yesterday then stormed home with five back-nine bunker when his par-putt did a val Norman at five-under-par 66 360-degree spin before drop- at the Avenel TPC course.

#### Fallon's day in the field of Reams

**GREG WOOD** 

reports from Epsom

As anyone who has just backed a winning outsider will tell you. horses have no idea of their starting price, and neither, as Reams Of Verse ably demonstrated in the Oaks here yesterday, do they take much notice of their family tree. Before the race, there were many doubts about whether the filly's stamina would stretch to 12 gruelling furlongs around Epsom Downs, but one irresistible surge well inside the final furlong carried Reams Of Verse past Gazetle Royale and into the front rank of middle-distance runners in the latest Clas-SIC generation.

That she did so was thanks mainly to the assurance under pressure of Kieren Fallon, her ockey, who was clearly going best of all as they swung through Tattenham Corner, but found his most obvious route to the front blocked by, ironically, Michael Kinane and Reams Of Verse's stablemate, Yashmak, with two furlongs to run. Fallon kept his mount balanced and running which is not easy on the giddy camber of Epsom's home straight - before pulling wide of Gazelle Royale and finding the last, crucial effort which gave Henry Cecil his fifth Oaks winner in the last 13 years.

This, of course, was the Classic winner which Fallon had not expected to be riding, following a 10-day riding ban imposed by stewards in Italy which, fortunately, he persuaded them to defer until after Royal Ascot. All in all, things could hardly be going better for the Irishman, who has now won two of the three English Classics run so far this season, and who will attempt to make it three out of four on Symonds Inn, a 20-1 chance, in the Derby this afternoon.

"Funnily enough, I didn't worry about finding trouble," Fallon said. "She has a very quick turn of foot and, more than anything, it helped me, otherwise I probably would have

turned out well." the Oaks may be better than one in three, but for Khalid Abdul- horses in Europe." lah, Reams Of Verse's owner,

is clearly a slightly difficult man to please, since his first comment to the trainer after yesterday's ace was "now I want to win the 1,000 Guineas". As long as he keeps sending horses to Warren Place, it is, you suspect, simply

a matter of time, Cecil, for one, is taking the request seriously: "She has to rate very highly among my other Oaks winners. She didn't get a very good run but she got out of trouble and won very well in the end. The Prince has always said he would love to win the Oaks, but having won, he turned to me and said he'd never won the 1,000 Guineas so we are back where we started."

Reams Of Verse's victory capped an excellent start for the punters on one of the most important weekends of the season, and there was earlier encouragement for those who will play up their winnings on Entrepreneur this afternoon when Michael Stoute, his trainer, took the Coronation Cup with

Though he has spent much of his recent cureer racing abroad, Singspiel has done so with such conspicuous success that he is a firm favourite with British racegoers. He was applauded all the way from the two-furlong pole as he galloped away from Dushyantor to record his first Group One success on home soil, and improve his position as the leading money-earner in European racing history still

"Racing needs heroes and champions and he's a champion," Frankie Dettori, his jockey, said. "It's very exciting to ride a horse like that, it gives me goose-pimples every time."

Sheikh Mohammed, Singspiel's owner, has now seen his colours led into the Epsom winner's enclosure after eight Group One races, but the Derby, the one he covets above all, continues to elude him. If the oversight annoys him, he hides it well, however, and Singspiel is clearly a particular favourite. "He has an Arabic look about kicked sooner than I wanted. It his face, and he is very versatile," the Sheikh said. "He is much Cecil's recent strike-rate in stronger this year, and now he will go and take on the best

That will include, perhaps, this was a first success in the race. Reams Of Verse, and today's Abdullah, who has now won Derby winner. The season is four of the five English Classics, only just beginning.

#### Royal ban for Dettori

Frankie Dettori will miss the fipicked up a two-day ban at Ep-

June for his riding of Fatefully Out West, placed fourth. in the Vodacall Victress Stakes. Fatefully finished third behind Samara but was demoted to fourth after an inquiry found him guilty of careless riding.

Because he was given the minimum sentence, Dettori is free to ride on days when there is a Group One race, as there is on the first three days of Royal Ascot.

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But by missing the Friday of Stand Stakes, Wokingham Handicap and King Edward VII Stakes.

Dettori said: "I don't benal day of Royal Ascot after he lieve I rode into anybody." But the stewards found that Fatefully had interfered with Baked He was ruled out on 16 & 20 Alaska which in turn hampered

> They considered it was caused by careless riding and had improved the placing of Fatefully who was demoted to fourth and Out West promoted to third.

> Senior stewards secretary Patrick Hibbert-Foy said: "It was a borderline case and the stewards deliberated long and hard about their verdict. "The stewards found Dettori

the meeting he is ruled out of guilty of careless riding be-the Hardwicke Stakes, King's cause he did not make enough effort to avoid going left across five other runners about half a furlong after the start."

#### RACING RESULTS

EPSOM

2.10: 1 DANCE TRICK (I Red) 11-8 fav.
2. Another Fentasy 10-1: 3. Flaming Ember 15-2. 8 ran. 1½, ½. (P Chapple-Hyan. Marron). Tota: £2.30: £1.20: £1.20: £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1.20. £1. 5. 1/s. (M Stoute, Newmorket), Total: 3.1.80; £1.10, £2.70. DF: £2.50. CSF: £6.12.
3.20: 1. COSMIC PRINCE (R Cochrane)
7.1; 2 Gee Bee Dramn 14-1; 3. Sharp Temper 12-1: 4. Restiess Spirit 20-1. 17 rad.
3.1 fav Great Crud. 2½, shc-hd. (M Janus, Newmarket). Total: £8.00; £1.90. £3.80.
£3.40, £3.90. DF: £1.09.30. CSF: £89.72.
Tricast: £1.074.50. Tric: £1.043.50.
4.00: 1. REAMS OF VERSE (K Falco) 5-6
fav, 2. Gaznile Royale 33-1; 3. Cruwn Of 14ght 11-1. 12 ran. 1½, ½, (H Cedi), Newmarket, Total: £1.90: £1.10, £3.90. £2.00.
DF: £37.80. CSF: £39.26. Tric: £83.00.
4.35: 1. PMILISTAR (B Doyle) 20-1; 2. Sweet Wilhelmins 6-1; 3. Star Talcott 8-1; 4. Virtual Resility 10-1: 18 ran. 5-1 tw Trent-ctin, 1½, 1½, Ih Surhe, Wantagel. Total

piin. 1½, 1½, lh Burke, Wentagel, Totac £34.50; £6.40, £1.80, £2.50, £2.40, DF:

£50.20, CSF: £126.71. Tricast: £1,012.13. Trio: £123.10. Non Runner: Red Robbo. 5.10: 1. SAMARA (Pat Eddey) 6-1; 2. seriotic Corday 11-4 (av.; 3. Out West 3-1.

5.10: 1. SAMARA (**P. EDGS)*
Clastriotte Contay 11.4 say, 3. Out West 3-1.
7 ran. 1½, 1½, ½ Dunlop, Arunden. Toda;
55.30; £2.10. £1.90. DF: £12.80, CSF:
£17.63. Amended Result. After a stewards
inquiry, the third and fourth places have been
inquiry, the third and fourth places have been
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fav; 2. Supply And Demand 8-1; 2. Dreem
fav; 2. Supply And Demand 8-1; 3. Dreem
fav; 2. Supply And Demand 8-1; 2. Dreem
fav; 2. Supply And Demand 8-1; 3. Dreem
fav; 3. Supply And Deman

CATTERICK 2.36: 1. BABY GRAND (Imberley Hart) 100-30; 2. Alverya Lucky 11.4; 3. Branston Berry 6-4 fav. 4 ren. 1%, 3%, († D. Barron, Thirsk), Tota: £4.30. DF: £8.20. CSF:

11.49.
3.06: 1. WILLIAM'S WELL (Date Gibson)
3.06: 1. WILLIAM'S WELL (Date Gibson)
6-1: 2. Tinker's Samprisse 8-1: 3. Gold Edge
6-1: 2. Tinker's Samprisse 8-1: 3. Gold Edge
700-30 for 13 ram. 2¹/₂, bu. (M W Essim100-30 for 13 ram. 2¹/₂, £184.27. The: £17.60.

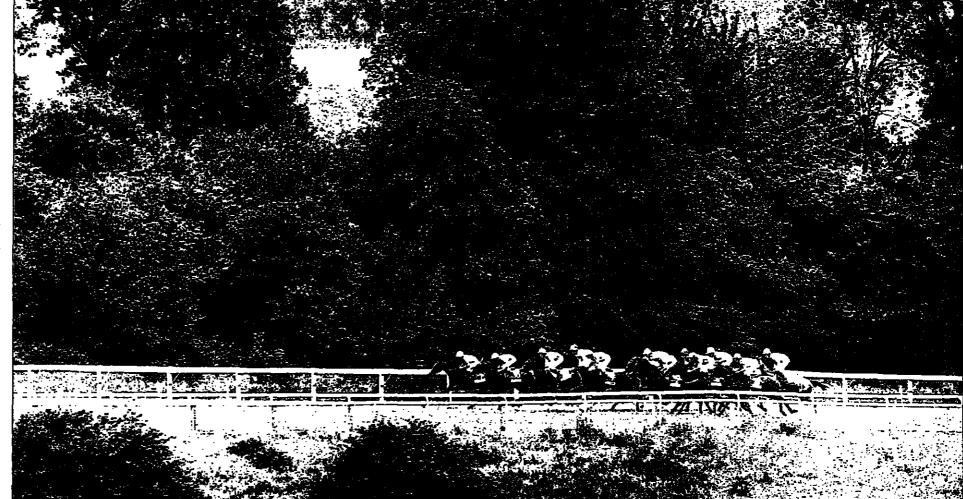
5.20: 1. MAPOLSON STAR (Dole Groon) 5-1:
2. Skyers Flyer 9-1: 3. Brecongtil Led 8-1.
11 ran. 3-1 fav Carnonneur. 1/5, 1: 53 Bowling, Marsfeld, Tote: £7.50: £2.70, £2.60, £4.00.
DF: £24.20. CSF: £48.97. Intest: £344.54.
The: £70.70. NR: Tropical Beach, Placespot: £179.90. Quadquot: £12.60.
Place 6: £197.11. Place 6: £39.19.

SOUTHWELL 220: 1. PRINCESS EFISIO (6 Outlieto)
12-1; 2. Johanne The Joienr 8-1; 3. Berntico 10-1. 16 rain. 1½, 1½, (8 McMahon),
Tota: £17.50; £2.40, £3.40, £3.00, £1.10.
DF: £320.00 CSF: £119.50. Yneset:
£1,006.60. Tho: £167.00.

DF: £320.00. GSF: £119.50. Include: £1,006.80. Thr: £167.00.
2554 1. SEDBERGH (D Hamsor) 11-10 fay: 2. Faugleron 12-1; 3. Cuban Mights 4-1. 8 an. 6, 1½, (Mis M Rocks). Tube: £180; £110, £250, £160. DF: £310. GSF: £1530.
325; 1. SPANRY (G Pakir) 15-2; 2. Missan Boy 7-2 fay: 3. Euroquect 14-1; 4. Misdam Lusy 7-1, 16 ran. 4, 1½, (MW Essett)A. Tobe: £9.20; £2.70, £1.90. £4.20, £1.30. DF: £9.30; £2.70, £1.90. £4.20, £1.30. DF: £3.70. GSF: £34.90. Thesis £349.96. The: Not worr; £206.80 ef to Epsom 2.45 today. 3.55; 2. MIOLY MILISTIC (D Rigs): 4-1 co fay: 20 fay: 6. 1½, 3. Phoenix Princess. 4-1 co fay: 10 ran. 4-1 co fay: Fay: 6. 1¼, (G Margarson). Tota: £3.20; £1.80, £4.60, £1.20. DF: £27.40. GSF: £58.08. Tricast: £258.61. Inot £69.50.

£1.20. UP: £27.40. GB 19. 11-4; 2. £25. 1. Inot £69.50. N. Day) 11-4; 2. Katic's Creeker 7-1; 3. Gymerak Mystery 11-1. 10 ran. 11-8 for Risky Whisiy. 11, 41. (G Lewis). Totac £3.80; £1.60, £3.10. £4.20. DF: £59.90. CSF: £24.82. Tro: 203.80. NR; Lastam.

£4.20. DF: £39.90. CSF: £24.82. Not: £33.80. NR: Lastram.
4.55: 1. GORECISKI (D Harrison) £3-2; 2. Shadow Jury £3-2; 2. Sactonian 9.2 £4.13. ran. 4, sh-hd. (N Trader). Tota: £6.07; £1.70, £2.90, £2.10. DF: £7.90. CSF: £46.42, 74-csf: £20.157. Tot: £47.50. Placepot: £36.90, Quadrot: £20.90. Place 6: £56.70. Place 5: £23.78.



#### HAYDOCK

HYPERION 2.10 Crystal Gold 2.40 Happy Days 3.15 Pomona 4.10 Lucayan Prince 4.40 Another Night 5.10 Sea

GOING: Good to Firm (Firm in places). STALLS: 6f. 7f & Im - Insule; Im 2f - outside- Im 6f - rentre. DRAW ADVANTAGE: High for 5f & 6f; low for 7f & Im. Eleft-band, almost fatte, oral resume; straight of restree.

E Course is nr junesion of ASS) and MG, Newton station 2m. AD-MISSION: (Course is nr junesion of ASS) and MG, Newton Station 2m. AD-MISSION: (Course State) Si (CAPs half-price in Tuttersails & Newton Stand), CAR PARE: Free.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

PAINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None, LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Castle Courageous (5.10) & Nan-ton Point (6.10) sent 24tm by Lady Herries from Augmertog, Sussex. 2.10 DOUGLAS RATED HANDICAP (CLASS C)

£10,000 added 3YO 1m 2f 120yds

2.40 EBF HOLSTEN PILS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 5f

CLASSIC SILVER W. Hagt 9 0 ______ S. Whitworth 2
242 HAPPY DAYS (23) D Mofatt 9 0 ______ Describe Moffatt (3) 5
4 REJECTED (66) (69) R Harmon 9 0 ______ Dasse O'Nell 4
SIMMEMENT SONIS | Grover 9 0 ______ All Days 2
ARCTIC ARE E. Waynes 8 9 _____ L. Channeck 1
233 SHARP CRACKET (11) (87) M. Alviston 8 9 .____ J. Wearen 6 – 6 declared – BETTING: 6-4 Sharp Cracker, 7-4 Rejected, 6-1 Happy Days, 8-1 Shaurwari Song, 12-1 Arctic Air, 25-1 Classic Silver

3.15 ROTHMANS NORTH SOUTH SERIES HAND-ICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 1m 30yds 

The Oaks field passes the woods at the top of Tattenham Hill before Reams Of Verse asserted in the closing stages to secure th 

- 12 declared 
BETTRIC: 5-1 Highborn, 8-1 Moving Arrow, Powons, Irish Accord, Sendmar Chambert, Hanter Beseled, Bollin Frank, 10-1 others

Gli	1551C	Photograph: Robert Hallan
4	.40	HORSEPOWER BY SCANIA MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,000 3YO 1m 30yds
1	223-0	ANOTHER MICHT (7) Q 1/2/27 ( Q ) Dame (Filled) 5
2	الحنة	BROWN ERAVE (21) M Ightsty, 9 (1) 1 Wester 1
3	4	TOPION (20) 1 Saleste 9 (i C Minimum 2
4	<b>⊍</b> -4	VAR CROND GES S MEMbrar 9 () 1 Manuton 2
5	0-0	ZAGROS (59) T Eastern 9 6 J Carroll 4
6	54	KAZIRANGA (USA) (36) L Currary S 9 G Hind 6
		- 5 declared -
ΒF	TING: 5-2	Kaziranga, 7-2 Indian Brave, Topton, 9-2 Another Night, 6-
1 V	an Chino,	12-1 Zagros
Ę	.10	PENNY LANE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,650 added 1m 6f
1	241/50	GENERAL ASSEMBLY (17) (BF) H Card 5 10 0 Carol 5
2	60/044	CASTLE COURAGEOUS (14) (D) Laby Herres 10 9 2
		E Doe (7) 1
3	<b>ርረ</b> 80	NANTON POINT (50) (D) Lack Herries 5 8 13T Sprake 6
4	050-23	SAMUEL SCOTT (20) (BF) M Page 4.5 10 Dance (1) Mebi 2
5	-51124	SEA FREEDOM (14) (D) (BF) 6 Balanc 6 S.J., S Drowne 3 V
8	415460	DANCING CAVALLER (14) (D) P. Halinstead 4 8 O. F Lynch 4
		- 6 declared -
RET	TBIC: 11.	Son Prendem 7-2 Connect Accounts, Commel Court 15-2

#### WORCESTER

HYPERION 2.55 Diddy Rymer 3.25 Plinth 4.05 Vision Of Freedom 4.35 Santella Cape 5.10 Martell Boy 5.40 Kerry's Oats 6.10

GOING: Chase causes — Good; Hurdles — Good to Firm.

Left-hand codner, level with long straights.

Course is on A443, Sation Im. ADMISSION: Members 512:50; Tunersaits S9:50; Course 55 (OAPs 2:50). CAR PARK: Preceptenie area parking S2:50.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Flash Chick (1:55); Junction Twentytwo & The Yorkel (1:25); Crown Ivory (visored, 3:25); Ballima (visored, 6:10).

WINNEES IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Imperial Honors (2:56) & Cloudy Honse (3:35) sem 176 miles by N Lampard from Kingsbridge, Devon.

2.55 NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added 3m

.__.5 Wyene .__.5 Wyene .__.01 (5) 

3.25 NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS

4.05 HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,575 added 2m 1 0/354 MATRAZ (SS) (D) 5 11 10 2 0/3511 BLACE OF FORMER (AT) (D) 9 11 3 2/505 NO LIGHT (LS) (D) 10 11 4 4 0/365 TISSISAT (SG) (CD) 8 11 3 4 WINSPORD HILL (36) 6 11 3 VISION OF FREEDOM (35) 40) 911 0 LCs D 4371-V VISIAN UP PRESIDEN (53 pt) 9 11 U L'EMBRINS (7) 0452- MAJOR'S LWR (12) (9) 8 10 12 - P MECLONGRIS 8 30443- FRASER CAREY (12) (0) 5 10 11 M A PROBLEM B 9 3350P AMOSONE BOY (7) 4 10 5 B FRASER LIPER STATE (12) (20) 6 10 5 C P Membro 11PU51- TURRUL HOUSE (25) 5 10 4 M M Mehants 

4,35 MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,925 added 2m 4f

1 PP. ARCIIC CHARMER (15) 5 11 5 ____ 8 Featon
2 2/3PP. DEBONAR DUDE (25) 7 11 5 ____ 8 A Fibernal
3 1SP2- GRATOME (28) 7 11 5 ____ 8 Fox
4 000F. JUST RECAUSE (12) 5 11 5 ____ P McLonglide
5 FOXD. THE CHARMEN 5 SDP- LATE ENCOUNCES (245) 6 115 ..... W Blarrston
6 6 LORD COOL (48) 6 115 ..... W Blarrston
7 2233 MR POPPLETON (331) 8 115 ..... L Harvey
8 0032 PROTOTIVE (70) 6 115 ..... A Theoretica
9 2530 SCALE FRANKLER (457) 8 115 ..... L Cantoty
10 0530; SCARLEF RANKLER (457) 8 115 .... L Cantoty
11 2POP TOMBRY COOPER (25) 6 115 .... E Byrne B
12 BELLARA (F24) 5 110 .... L Wyer
13 FFP COUNDY HOUSE (42) 8 110 .... Mr L Baker (7) 3 0. HEDOME 5 114 ....
145002 SPARKLING BUCK (17) 5 110 .... Soy Lesis (3) 4 0. JO'S WEDDING (28) 6 11
15 0P3 TEXARCAL MOVE (17) 6 110 Spatie Mischell (5) 5 006 RESAL BLIFF (24) 5 114

5.10 HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £4,075

8-1 Whippers Delight, 12-1 Merry Parts, 14-1 En Valentine, Paper Star, Scotoni, Trust Deced, 16-1 others 12 3 AMONHEEMAND (25) 4 10 13 5.40 NATIONAL HUNT FLAT R

H) (DIV II) £1,500 added 2m 

6.10 NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (CLASS

#### NEWMARKET

HYPERION

6.40 Norsong 7.05 Petite Danseuse 7.35 Ivory Dawn 8.05 Purchasing Power 8.35 Tadwiga 9.05 Keyboogie

GOING: Good to Firm.

STALLS: 6f & Im - far side; remainder - stands side.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Illigita-israd course with a 1 mile straight (July course).

Course is SW of town on A1304. Bus link from Cambridge and Newmarket stations. ADMOSSION: Clob & 15 (16 to 25-year-olds \$10); Grandstand & Paddock \$10 (16 to 25-year-olds \$5); Famby Enclosure \$3. CAR PARK: Members \$1; remainder free.

BLINKERED FIRST: TIME: Dashing Invader (6.40); Bold Spring (7.36). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Bellias Gate Boy (6.41); wo at Lingsleid on Saturday. (0.40) won at Lingleid on Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE KUNNERS: Heathyards Rock (6.40) has been sen 347 miles by R McKellar from Lessnahagow, Smathebyde.

6.40 LADY AMATEURS DERBY HICAP SKY 

7.05 WALTER EARL SELLING STAKES (CLASS E) £5,000 added 370 1m O-DION (DIES BO Jones 8 11
O-SOLL JAMES VARVYE (3.1) (D) S Woods 8 11
O-ROLL JAMES VARVYE (3.1) (D) S Woods 8 11
O-ROLL JAMES VARVYE (3.1) (D) S Woods 8 11
O-ROLL JAMES VARVYE (3.1) (D) S Woods 8 11
O-ROLL JAMES VARVYE (3.1) (D) WARRING S D WILLIAM (3.1) (D) WARRING S D 
7.35 NGK SPARK PLUGS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 370 of 

8.05 BALLEYS IRISH CREAM HANDICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 1m (CLASS C) 1-8,000 80000 110 001-34 SAFAN (22) (30) D Mons 8 001 -0003 MAILS (12) (0) T D Barron 4 9 8 33:D-0 BUSRED (30) M Tomplers 4 9 5 33:D-0 BUSRED (30) M Tomplers 4 9 5 242-36 NANE OF TUNES (18) (0) J Sheehon 5 9 3 10-303 AUPRIC HEDERINKY (7) B Harbury 4 9 2 622-14 GREDN (3ME) (18) R Harron 3 9 2 10-052 WHITTLE ROCK (15) (C) Mrs M Ravdey 4 9

10-7	1711000		12 3 MANUFACTOR 100 1 10 To 1 - 4 010 (1)	
PAC	SE /(C)	LASS	13 + QUARMATIC (66) 4 10 13	
	_ (0		14 TENA'S ADVENTURE 5 10 13 Mr A Brown	
m			15 MEL'S AWAY 5 10 13 S Wynne	
		L Wiver	15 NEL'S AWAY 5 10 13S Wynne 16 FULLOFANCY 4 10 8Sophie Witchell (S)	
	N WHE	L Wyer ameon	17 ACCORDING TO JESS 4 10 8 0 Bustons (5)	
A Riller	V Rob		- 17 declared -	
محجور ب	D 0-		BETTING: 3-1 Review Board, 7-2 Not's Away, 7-1 See Tarth,	
		Ner (5) eru (5)	Tempered Steel, 8-1 Amothebambo, 12-1 others	
	~~~	me lot	(Amphitum desired a nicessary and a nicessary	
	_		LAY THE BLANE (10) M Hammord 4 & 13	Ī
12	9	10000-3	WED SKY (21) (BF) M Heston-Ells, 385	ï
13	10	4-45-5	WELL SAY (21) (SIY) IN POSITIONS 3 S S	
11	11	3214-0	LADY GODINA (19)(D) M Polgase 3 7 13 Martin Dayer (3) 5	ï
<b>5</b> 6	12	12015	PURCHASING POWER (12) (D) N Calagran 3 7 13 Quino 7	
	13	15664	HOPSRUL BID (1,094) P Howing 9 7 12	•
ID-1			- 13 declared -	
	BET	THE: 4-1	Purchasing Power, 9-2 Green Jewel, 13-2 Seifan, 7-1 Wild	ı
7	,			
Y		25	FRANK BUTTERS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS	,
	0	.33	E, Nag Of Tubes, 10-1 supras receives, 12-1 cusas FRANK BUTTERS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,500 added 2YO filfies 6f	
7		_	AUNT SADIE R Creation B 11Pat Editory 2	
: 11	1		AURI SAUE KURRIN 6 11	ï
<b>7</b> 5	2	32	HIGH GAIK (19) P Hoxing B 11Paul Eddery 4	•
er 2	2		LIKELY STORY   Dunior 8 11	
<b>a</b> 1	4		MAGRATE   Gostler & 11	r
9 B	5		ent A corpor I leaders & 11 6 Surpice 3	
39.8	ñ		STAYONED INF P Cole 8 11	•
ry 3	7	3	TADMIGA (21) R Harnon 8 11 Dane O'Neil 5	į
ĎΫ	•	_	_ 7 declared -	
10	DCT	me- 0.4	Migrete, Tederiga, 7-2 Stayingelive, 8-1 Aunt Sedie, Likel	v
4	- Char	46.4 N	ign Sain, 25-1 Solo Spirit	•
-				
be.		ΛE	CECIL BOYD ROCHFORT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,500 added 3YO 1m 2	ė
3	13		(C) ACC D) 55 500 added 3YO 1m 2f	
-	_		(OLNOS D) DOPOG MICOG OTO Politoni D	
Y	2		ALPRIA J Gosden 8 11 Dettori 5	
1.	2	02-033	CRY CAMBLER (LA) G Brakery & 11 12 HORSTON &	,
افت	3		CALLANT HEIGHTS G Bravery 8 11	•
28	4	5-6	BRACEFIL LASS (21) D LOGER S 21	L
41	5	03	KEYBOOGE (17) R Charlton 8 11Pet Eddery 4	•
12	ē.	0.6	LA CHRANAU AL 1435 G VIDAY B 21 M Hills 7	ľ

#### SOUTHWELL

HYPERION 6.50 Mister Goodguy 7.15 Mythical Approach 7.45 Robert's Toy 8.15 Silverdale Lad 8.45 Lucy Tufty 9.15 Noble Lord

COING: Good to Firm (watering). GOING: GROUTE PITH UNDERSIGN.

Left-hand shorp, oval course.

Course is firm W of Newark. Rolleston Junction adjoins course.

ADMISSION: Club 5112; Tamersalls £6 (OAP members of course's Inamonal Club 5:1, under-10s (see). CAR PARE: Free.

ELINERIED FIRST TIME: Chief Gale (visored) (8.15).

WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: Lucy Turky (8.45) won at Market Rasen on Saturday. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Robert's Toy (7.45) has been sen 211 miles by M Pape from Nicholashayne, Devon.

6,50 NOVICE HCAP CHASE (CLASS E) SKY 

7.15 RGR REFRIGERATION NOVICE SKY 

BETTURE: 1-2 Mythical Approach, 9-2 Telmar Systems, 5-1 Ordog Mer. 7.45 CHASE (CLASS E) £5,400 2m 2061: ROBERT'S TOY (17) (D) M Pps 6 12 0 ______ A P McCay 8 573,P. MAN MODO (FR) (135) C Brooks 6 11 10 _____ M Berry (7) 2121U- MOBLELY (USA) (267) (20) R Ainer 10 11 7 ...... A Thomson

3P3/4 CONE ON DANCER (12) I Write 9 10 0 JR Kenerugh FP412 SIGBA RUN (12) (0) I O'Shee 8 10 0 R Johnson F4452- YERDE LINN (22) D Arouthro 5 10 0 S McNell - 8 declared -Minimum weight; 10st. True hardicap weights: Come On Dencer Sat 12b. Sig-ma Ran 9st 10b. Werle Lune Set 8b. BETTURE: 1138 Roberts Foy, 7-2 Hobbely, 11-2 Man Mood, Sigma Run, 8-1 Vende Luna, 14-1 Come On Dencer

8.15 FRENCH & GOSTELOW MAIDEN SKY - 8 declared BETTEVE: 5-2 Silvertade Lad, 3-1 Bonn Matteliot, Pendah, 13-2 Chief Gale,
14-1 Better Wind, Sky Burst, Golden Favon, 25-1 Forcytalkintlaker

8.45 SQUIRES PLANT SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m

9.15 DESERT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 4f 110yds

23402 MORRE LORD (12) R Sucker 4 21 23 B Powell
Q3P2 WALKING TALL (42) (CD) T McGozem 6 11 6 A P Nector B
11033 MOCHICHEM (286) (CD) X Morgan B 11 2 R Subsette
14411 HELO ME MAN (17) (P) B Useelyn 9 10 7 Mr / 1 Lievelyn
P4200 LAYMAM LOW (28) O Shemood 6 10 0 M Richards
- 5 declared -

- 5 declared 
Historius weight 10st Top handkap weight Layham Low 9st 13to.

BETTENS: 2-1 Helio Me Man, 5-2 Noble Lord, Walking Tall, 11-2 Nocetchis

12-1 Layham Low

#### WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 Alagna 7.30 Sense Of Priority 8.00 lcy Guest 8.30 Dalliance 9.00 Edna's Gift 9.30 Hoh Majestic

GOING: Standard STALLS: Insade; except 7f & Im 6f - outside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: High from 0f to 1m 4f.

Fibresand, left-hand, aval course.

Course is N of town on A449. Station 1m. ADMISSION: Club E COREN ES OU BOTH OF THE COREN IN ADMINSTRATE STATE SEA Dreams (7.30); Step In To The

Sen (9.00). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Edma's Gift (9.00) won at Thurs, on Mondry. LONG-DESTANCE BUNNERS: Sipowitz (7.00) & Castles Burning (8.30) sent 159 miles by C Cyner from Mapleharsa, W Sussex.

7.00 GIRTH HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 370 1m 6f 1.66yds O-CSO-1 MOGRESIO (LD) J L Harris 9 7 ______ B Doyle 9 V OOO-00 PROPELLANT (18) C Thornton 9 6 ______ J Femaling 3 O-SSO2 WOODLAND INVIEWS (SIG) D Mutray Street 9 1 ____ J Femaling 3 O-CASO WASRIAN (SIG California 9 0 ______ L Charmood 8 60432 Alagana (11) (BF) 6 C Willioms 8 12 ______ S Dromau 2 55.344 HOH DOWN (134) R Juckes B 11 N Fenton 4 B 0-0000 RUSDOM, KIT XPRES (21) S R Bowing B 10.0 Sensory (6) 10 0-1315 SAM PEEB (18) R Fahey B 10 R Winston (7) 7 0-00 SPOWITZ (34) C Ozer B 9 A Whaten (3) 6 

- 10 declared -Minimum weight 7st 10th. The hardcop weight Belle Contella 7st 9th. BETUNE: 13-8 Alagan, 5-1 bloombird, Sam Peeb, 3-1 Woodland Nymph, Hob Down, 12-1 Propellant, 18-1 Warriin, Bella Daniella, 20-1 others

7.30 SADDLE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F)

- 10 declared -BETTINC: 2-1 Sease Of Priority, 6-1 Berrico, 7-1 Agents Boy, Advance Rapro, 8-1 Ashgere, 10-1 Thordio, People Direct, 16-1 others

ai kac	Ł (대	A22	14 TENA'S ADVENTURE 5 10 13 Mr A Brown
d 2m			15 MEL'S AWAY 5 10 13 S Wyone
		Wyer	16 FULLOFANCY 4 10 8Sophie Mitchell (5)
	N WE	ALLEGE	17 ACCORDING TO JESS 4 10 8 D Bustows (5)
6114 Mass	¥ Robe	ris (7)	- 17 declared -
14	لحو و	ler (5)	BETTING: 3-1 Review Soard, 7-2 Nors Away, 7-1 See Tarth,
14	X Akpr	<b>5</b> 0 (5)	Tempered Steel, 8-1 Amothebambo, 12-1 others
Opine 12	9	0500-3	LAY THE BLANE (10) M Hammond 4 & 13
<u> </u>	10	4-4525	WED SKY (21) (BF) M Heaton-Ells 385
e (7) 11	11	3214-0	LADY CODINA (1910) M PORSES: 3 7 13Martin Dwyer (3) 9 1
Иотта б	12	·12015	PURCHASING POWER (12) (D) N Caladran 3 7 13 J Quina 7
	13	15664	HOPERUL BID (1,094) P Horang 9 7 12
es, 10-1		- A -	Purchasing Power, 9-2 Green Jewel, 13-2 Seifan, 7-1 Wild
	Cla-	0.4 learn	- May Of Trace 10.1 Mining Hidament, 12-1 (1986)
ΚY	ary.	AT INC.	D. 100 Ct. 1000; 20'4 report - 1000 rep; - 2 4 4 5 7 7
	Q	25	FRANK BUTTERS MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5.500 added 2YO fillies 6f
Dettori 7	10	.33	D) £5,500 added 2YO fillies 6f
berts 11	1		Aller Same R Charlion B 11Pat Editory 2
Derley 5	2	33	AUNT SADIE R Charton B 11 Pat Editory 2 HIGH GAIR (19) P Howing B 11 Paul Editory 4
Carter 2	ŝ		LEGY SERRY   Dance 8 11 processor and the last of the series of the seri
R Price 1	4		MICRATE I Gosten 8 11
dery 9 B	5		SOLO SPORIT I Jenturo 8 11 6 Sartines 3
yer (3) 8	6		COMMUNICAL INC. D.Codo 9.11
Eddery 3	7	3	TADMICA (21) R Harmon 8 11
alan 6 Y			- 7 declared -
arley 10	BETT	ING: 9-4	Migrato, Tadwiga, 7-2 Stayingalive, 8-1 Aunt Sadie, Ulkely
vehicl 4	Stor	, 10-1 H	ign Golo, 25-1 Solo Spirit
Spring.		ΛE	CECIL BOYD ROCHFORT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5.500 added 3YO 1m 2f
others	13	CO	(CLASS D) £5,500 added 3YO 1m 2f
	_		Al Distance   Constant R 11 L Dettori 5
KY	2	02-033	CRY GAMBLER (14) G Bravery 8 11 M Rigarrier 3
	á		CALLANT HEIGHTS G BROKEN & 11
Day 2 B	4	5-6	GRACEFILL LASS (11) D Loder S 11
Action 1	5	U3	SEVEROPER (17) & Charles & 11Pet Eddery 4
y (3) 12	é	0-6	LA CURRAMALAL (43) G Wagg S 11 M Hills 7 RUFALDA (13) L Currer B 11 D Young (7) B
andéus 4 boune B	7	0	SHELIFEZ M Bel 8 11
Stack 3	8		-8 declared -
O'Nail 6	DET TO	MC	n Xenhandin, 9-2 Graceful Lass, 8-1 Alaina, 7-1 La Cura-
bans 10	النده	12-10	ty Combier, 14-1 Refuite, 25-1 Callant Heights, Sheltoer

#### 8.00 SURCINGLE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) | SUPPLEMENT | SUP

8.30 THOROUGHBRED HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,325 added 1m 1f 79yds 

9.00 MARTINGALE SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2.875 added 2YO filles 6f 

NTIC SECRET R Juckes 89. 9 40 STEP IN TO THE SIM (S) R Fohe; 8 9 ______ Carroll 2 B
10 003 SYLVAH CLOUD (14) C Farturs 8 9 ______ Carroll 2 B
2ETYING: 64 Educ's Gift, 41 Gifted Bairs, 6-1 Medina Miss, 7-1 JackH-Jüly, 12-1 Kambatragos, 14-1 Miss Equal, Sylvan Cloud, 16-1 others

9.30 BRIDLE APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS G) £2,875 added 6f | 300-00 | IS2,875 addled | 67 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100

218th DERBY: Spoken of in the same breath as Shergar, the favourite could become as celebrated as Nijinsky and Mill Reef

#### Entrepreneur in the grand Epsom tradition

Racing Correspondent

It might have something to do with the phalanx of open-top buses overlooking the final furlong, but just at a time the Derby needs an entrepreneur to rescue it two may have come

along together.

The Blue Riband as a sporting event has been on the slow path to the graveyard in recent times, but there are glimmers that the racecourse executive now understands a whistle through the fingers is not enough to bring hordes thundering to the occasion.

Advance bookings are up and today will reveal whether the various populist manoeuvres conducted by Sue Ellen, the managing director of the course's owners, United Racecourses, and her cohorts have

been successful.

JR (John Reid's sobriquet in the weighing room) has also played a part in the attraction of this year's Derby as he is one of the jockeys who has nurtured the career of today's odds-on favourite, Entrepréneur.

It is some time now since you could mention the name of the Derby winner in the barber's, off-licence or supermarket and be guaranteed a response. It is almost 30 years since Nijinksy and Mill Reef were around, and 16 years since Shergar. And it is a horse who is considered an equal or even better than the last-named by their trainer who may now elevate the sport.

The 1997 Derby sits as pretty much a one-horse race. It is a fashion to rubbish the event these days, but if Entrepreneur was not in today's running it would indeed be a contest of considerable mediocrity. The huge appeal now is of 12 rivals turning up with their slings aimed at Michael Stoute's colt.

This is not to say the race is a foregone conclusion, an element the favourite's connections understand more than most.

"Anything can go wrong in the build-up and even in the race things can happen," Michael Kinane, who will be at Entrepreneur's controls, says, "It's like Murphy's Law and anything that can go wrong will go wrong. At the same time you could not possibly swap my horse for anything else in the race because he's got the proper credentials going in.

"The speed he has shown has been remarkable for a horse mile and a half. But there is a question when a horse shows speed like that whether he has the stamina to back it up. That is a question that has to be on everybody's lips.

Jockeyship is at a premium on Epsom's devilish contours, though Kinane should not be disturbed by the size of the field, the smallest since Generous beat 12 rivals in 1991. Nevertheless, he understands there will be tripwires placed for him.

'Tactically, I see the jockeys on the horses who are definitely going to get the trip going out to make sure I stay," he says. "If you look at them they're not going to beat me for speed, so if I was the opposition, my tactics on the day would be trying to expose Entrepreneur's limitations. The only limitation it appears he might have is sta-



Heading toward greatness: Entrepreneur can add the Derby to his 2,000 Guineas win

There is enough hogwash talked about pedigrees in racbuilding of irresistible acceleration, rather like a locomotive ing to fill the dining tables at a on the track. This suggests he piggery, and the self-styled experts have been at it again in dismight not only get the trip, but cussing Entrepreneur's genes. There are, of course, others journey, some say he will, but

to consider, and the broad con-

viction seems to be that Silver science is and that Red Rum Patriarch will give the favourite was bred to be a sprinter, and most to do. An indelible sen-Vlad The Impaler's daddy may sation from watching the grey's well have been a Transylvanian performances, however, is that he may be just a little bit slow. More important is Entrepreneur's style of running and in this respect he is remarkably Certainly Barry Hills, who saddles two here, thinks that anysimilar to the 1989 2,000 Guinone who considers Silver eas and Derby winner, Nashwan. None of Entrepreneur's Dip should be sharing a bunk victories have been characbed with Charles Manson. terised by an instant burst of ve-Silver Patriarch and Benny

locity, but rather a gradual The Dip, who has always been considered a 10-furlong horse by his trainer, John Gosden. have both won recognised Derby trials, but the no-hoper Papua apart, they are the most As Lammtarra and Shaamit have shown over the last two

day Epsom winner. A more reliable option is the progressive Cloudings, who has developed the facility for winning races with the least possible expenditure of energy. His last three victories have been Patriarch can beat Benny The collected by the maximum of a neck. The stock of André Fabre's colt rose dramatically last weekend with the result of the

HYPERION

**BEST LONGSHOT** 

clude Silver Charm, going for

the US Triple Crown today: the French Guineas winner Dayla-

mi and the French Derby fourth

The esoteric science of ge-

1. Cloudings

3. Musalsal

2. Entrepreneur

years, scores on the board are

not a prerequisite for a modern-

Prix du Jockey-Club (French Derby), and he will take advantage if the British horses, as Classic results on the Continent and Ireland have suggested

Out there on the domestic prairie though, it appears there is one animal with the capacity to enthral, a thoroughbred who has helped publicise the Derby like few others in recent years. Given the record of 2,000 Guineas winners going into the Derby, it will be no huge surprise if ENTREPRE-NEUR (nap 3.45) fails, though at the same time it would be a

quite dreadful disappointment. The financially uncommitted will surely hold the same aspirations as Michael Kinane this afternoon. "As the 2,000 Guincas was his first race of the year you would have to think that fitness-wise he would improve for it," the Irishman says. "If he does stay, and it turns out he wants to go a mile and a half, it could be that he is one of those exceptional horses we don't get very often."

random shows how qualities

that do contribute to athletic excellence can behave.

From Airborne's year, 69

per cent of Derby winners (35

from 51) have been hay or

brown, but then 69 per cent of

runners (742 from 1,075) have

been bay or brown too. There

is a slight weighting towards

his ghostly coat. It is to be hoped

that Entrepreneur is made of

first three at a big price.

3.45 VODAFONE DERRY STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 1) £500,000 added 3yO colts & filles 1m 4f 10yds Penalty value £595,250

Bay coll by Silver Hawk (whose progeny on average stay 1m 1.4f) out of Raecal Rascal (who was by Ack Ack) Forms: Won Group Two Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot (1m, good) last year. Was 11/2 lengths second to Voyagers Quest in the Group Three Classic Trial at Sandown (1m 21, good to soft) before winning Group Two Dente Stakes at York (1m 2f 85yds, good) by 21/2 lengths from Desert Story, Summary: Stays 1m 2f well, but his pedigree suggests 1m 4f may stretch his stamina and his Dente form - using Desert Story as a yardstick - leaves him something to find with Entrepreneur. Going & Distance ? Rating 113

4-21. BOLD DEMAND (1.1) (Godo(phin) Seeed bin Suroor 9st ... Bey colt by Reinbow Quest (1m 2.5f) out of Defrah (Dendig)
Forms: Finished three lengths second to Single Empire at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm) on his resppearance before beating Shaya by half a length in a Sandown (1m 2f, good to firm) maiden. Summary: Lightly-raced and is taking a big step up in class, tackling a Group One race after winning a maiden. Moreover, he has show signs of temperament - he flashes his tall under pressure. However, he is bred to stay Going ✓ Distance * Rating 107 1m 4f and should win more races in easier company.

41-11 CLOUDINGS (27) (Sheikh Mohammed) A Fabre (Fr) 9st. Grey colt by Sadler's Wells (1m 2.8f) out of Ispanan (Rusticaro) Forms: Won valuable auction race at Deauville (1.m, good to soft) last year. Won Listed race at Longchamp (1m 2f 110yds, good to firm) by a neck from Zenith and then landed Group One Prix Lupin at Longchamp

(1m 2f 110yds, good to soft). Summary: His chance was boosted when stablemate Peintre Celebre won the Prix Du Jockey Club (French Derby) on Sunday, with Astarabad - behind Cloudings in the Prix Lupin - a creditable third. Bred to stay 1m 4f and has each-way chance. Going ✓ Distance ? Rating 119 41-521 CRYSTAL HEARTED (30) (Mrs C M Poland) H Candy 9st... Bay colt by Broken Hearted (1m 1.6f) out of Crystal Fountain (Great Nephew) pressive performer. Impressed last time when making all the running to win a three-runner List-

ed race at Chester (1m 2f 85yds, heavy) by 13 lengths from Barnum Sands. Summary: Progressive sort who clearly enjoys front-running and, a helf-prother to the useful stayer High Fountain, seems to sure to stay 1m 4f well. He acts on good to firm ground as well as heavy but is tackling by far his toughest race Going / Distance ^ Rating 108 here and may find a few too quick for him. 411-1 ENTREPREMEUR (35) (M Tabor) M Stoute 9st.

Bay colt by Sadler's Wells (1m 2.8f) out of Exclusive Order (Exclusive Native) forms: Won minor races at Kempton (7f, good) and Chester (7f 122yds, good) last year. Won Group One 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket (1m, good to firm) on his seasonal debut, always prominent, leading two furlongs out and staying on to hold Revoque by three-quarters of a length with Desert Story eight lengths back in sixth place. Summary: Won what looked, on the clock at least, a good 2,000 Guineas in style and is bred to be equally effective at 1m 4f. Should be hard to beat. Going v Distance : Rating 125

12-1 FAHRES (51) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) B Hanbury 9st.

Chestnut colt by Generous (1m 1.9f) out of Janbiya (Kris) Form: Won maiden at Salisbury (7f, firm) and beaten a neck in Listed race at Pontefract (1m, good) last year. Showed improved form on his seasonal debut when winning Listed Feilden Stakes at Newmarket (1m 1f, good to firm) by three lengths from Panama City. Summary: Has not run since April due to sinus problems but has recovered and is working well. His form leaves him something to find but he clocked a decent time in the Fedden and is bred to be even better at 1m 4f. Going : Distance "Rating 112

51-13 MUSALSAL (24) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 9st... Bay colt by Sadler's Wells (1.m 2.8f) out of Ozone Friendly (Green Forest)

Form: Won at Doncaster (1m, good to firm) in March by a short-head from Handsome Ridge before finishing 31% lengths third to Benny The Dip in the Group Two Dante Stakes at York (1m 2f 85yds, good). Summary: Stayed on well in the Dante but his pedigree suggests that 1m 2f may be as far as he wants to go. Should win more races in lesser company but needs to improve out of all recognition if he is to Going ✓ Distance : Rating 108 out off a shock victory here.

215-324 PAPLA (28) (R Hitchens & E Hitchens) I Balding 9st. Chestrut colt by Green Dancer (1m 2.7f) out of Fairy Tern (Mill Reef) Form: Won valuable 23-numer contest at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) last October. Was 11/4 lengths

second of three to Palio Sky at Epsom (1m 4f 10vds, good to firm) in April but finished tailed off behind Silver Patrianch in the Group Three Lingfield Derby Trial (1m 3f 106yds, soft) last time. Summary: Summary: Stays 1m 4f and goes on good to firm ground but has had his limitations exposed in three starts this term and would have to improve massively to figure here. Going & Distance & Rating 104

113 ROMANOV (13) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9st... Bay colt by Nureyev (7.6f) out of Morning Devotion (Affirmed)

Forms Won a maiden at Haydock (7f, soft) prior to winning at Sandown (1m, good). Showed improved form to finish five lengths third to Desert King in the Group One Irish 2,000 Guineas at the Currach (1m, good) last time. Summary: Smart colt who showed he is not far from top class in the Irish Guineas. Bred to stay 1m 2f, but will be very much venturing into unknown territory over 1m 4f and may not have the Going + Distance Rating 110

411-31 SRIVER PATRIARCH (28) (D) (PS Winfield) J Dunlop 9st

Grey colt by Saddler's Hall (n/a) out of Early Rising (Grey Dawn II) Form: Finished creditable 11/2 lengths third to Voyagers Quest and Benmy The Dip in Group Three Classic Trial at Sandown (1m 2f, good to soft) on his reappearance prior to winning the Group Three Lingfield Derby That at Lingfield (1m 3f 106yds, soft) by seven lengths from Tanaasa. Summary: Smart colt who stays really well and may turn the tables on Beniny The Dip over this longer top. However, his best form

is on soft ground and he may find a couple too quick for him. Goling X Distance . Rating 189

1511 SINGLE EMPIRE (13) (D) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9st... Chestnut colt by Kris (1m 2f) out of Captive Island (Northfields) Form: Won maiden at Kempton (1m 3f, good to firm) in March and stakes race at Newmarket (1m 4f,

good to firm) before winning the Group One Derby Italiano in Rome (1m 4f, firm) by a short-head from Ungaro. Summary: Demonstrated he stays 1m 4f well and goes on fast ground when winning the Italian Derby. Tackles much tougher opposition here but may be capable of further improvement and must have each-way prospects. Going : Distance : Rating 109

323-1 SYMONDS INN (23) (Marquesa de Moratalla) I FitzGeraki 9st., Chestnut colt by in The Wings (1m 2.6f) out of Shining Eyes (Mr Prospector)

Form: Showed steadily improved form on each of his three outings last year and made a highly promising seasonal debut when staying on well in the closing stages to beat Shaya by 3% lengths in a stakes race at York (1m 2f 85yds, good). Summary: Is a difficult ride - he tends to hang and flash his tail under pressure - but clearly quite useful and is bred to stay 1m 4t. Needs to improve to take a hand in the Going / Distance Rating 110

3-12 TANAASA (28) (Maktourn Al Maktourn) M Stoute 9st... Bay colt by Sadler's Wells (1m 2.8f) out of Mesmerge (Mill Reef)

Form: Created a favourable impression when winning a maiden at Leicester (1m2f, good to soft) before finishing seven lengths second to Silver Patriarch in the Group Three Lingfield Derby Trial at Lingfield (1m 3f 106yds, soft). Summary: Was found to be lame on his right hind leg yesterday morning and, although declared as an intended runner at Thursday's 48-hour declaration stage, is extremely unlikely to Going Distance Rating 100

14 0114-1 THE FLY (25) (Mrs J M Corbett) B Hills 9st...

Grey colt by Pharly (1m 2.7f) out of Nelly Do Da (Derring Do) Form: Showed fair form last year. Put up a smart performance to win a valuable rated handicap at York (1m 2f 85yds, good) on his seasonal debut in a smart time by an easy two lengths from Silverani, Summany: Quickened up well to win in impressive style at York, Takes a massive step up in class here but ef-

fort on the clock at York suggests he is no fortom hope and he is bred to stay 1m 4f. Could finish in the Going : Distance Rating 110

- 14 declared BETTING: 4-5 Entrepreneur, 11-2 Silver Patriarch, 7-1 Benny The Dip, 10-1 Cloudings, 12-1 Fahris, 20-1 Bold De-mand, 25-1 Symonds Inn, The Fly, 28-1 Romanov, 33-1 Musalsal, Single Empire, 66-1 Crystal Hearted, 200-1 Papua 1996: Shaarnit 3 9 0 M Hills 12-1 (W Haggas) 20 ran Compiled by Ian Davies

FIRST S	HOW O	NTHET	ERBY	
Horse (Trainer)	Coral	William Hill	Ladbrokes	Tote
Entrepreneur (M Stoute)	4-5	4-5_	4-5	
Silver Patriarch (J Dunlop)	5-1	11-2	6-1	
Benny The Dip () Gosden)	7-1	7 <u>-1</u>		7-1
Cloudings (A Fabre/Fr)	11-1	11-1	9-1	3.4 7.5
Fahris (B Hanbury)	12.1	12-1	14-1	
Bold Demand (Sased bin Surcor)	25-1	20-1	16-1	25-1
Symonds inn (J Fitzgerald)	22-1	28-1	28-1	18-1
Musalsal (8 Hills)	25-1	33-1	33-1	33-1
Romanov (P Chapple-Hyam)	33-1	28-1		33-1
The Fly (8 Hills)	33-1	22-1		
Single Empire (P Chappie-Hyam)	33-1	33-1	20-1	20-1
Crystal Hearted (M Stoute)	80-1	66-1	40-1	33-1
Papua (i Balding)	200-1		66-1_	50-1
Tanaasa (M Stoute)		200-1	<u>250-1</u>	200-1

#### Three grey heirs to a ghostly tale

Sue Montgomery

THE EXPERTS' PREDICTIONS

**GREG WOOD** 

**BEST LONGSHOT** 

1. The Fly

3. Fahris

2. Entrepreneur

Three borses, Cloudings, Silver Patriarch and The Fly, today an Arab stallion, foaled in 1704 have the chance of becoming only the fifth of their kind in Turf history. Their distinction lies in their silvery coat colour; only four greys have previously won the Derby in 217 runnings.

The first of them was Gustavus in 1821, followed by the filly Tagalie in 1912. Mahmoud in 1936 and Airborne 10 years later. Since Airborne's win, just five of his colour have been placed, nost recently Tenmon, second to Nashwan eight years ago.

Grey racehorses, for all the visions of Pegasus that they provoke, are hugely outnumbered by their less strikinglycoloured brethren, the bays, browns and chestnuts. This is because, firstly, grey is not a huc that can lie dormant through the generations and, secondly, there is only one surviving source of greyness in the thoroughbred.



and imported, via Constanintople, by one Sir Robert Sutton. Known as the Alcock Arabian. this horse had a son, Crab, who was three times champion sire and did much for the promulgation of greyness at the time. Two different lines of descent from him met in the grey mare Bab, foaled in 1787. And on one of her grand-daughters, by a thread, hung the future of

Some say he will not stay to

none detail how inexact their

RICHARD EDMONDSON

**BEST LONGSHOT** 

All grey racehorses trace to

1. Entrepreneur

3. Benny The Dip

2. Cloudings

the smokey jacket. This grey mare had nine foals, but only the first, Master Robert, took after her. He was a runner and sire of little account, but from two of his sons came the two strands of grey that are around today. One developed in Britain and Ireland, with the 1891-foaled stallion Grey Leg its most prominent member, and the other, the most influential

on the colts trying to end a bleak run for the bleached thanks to a horse called Roi

Herode, in France. The Fly belongs to Grey Leg's branch, having the longdead horse as one of his 10 greats grandfathers on his mother's side. Airborne was the only one of 17 grey individual Classic winners this cen-

tury to belong to this tribe. For it was Roi Herode's brilliant son The Tetrarch, born in 1911, whose influence has been responsible for the modern grey. Cloudings' dam is an eight-greats grand-daughter; Silver Patriarch's mother is not only a five-greats, but numbers Mahmoud among her greatgrandparents. Other descen-

90 91 92 93 94 95

1019 13/14 10/12 10/18 10/13 4/18 6/16 15/25 7/15 9/20

odit or loss to £1 stake: Favourités -£0.75 Second Favourités +£7.50

Top trainer: H Cecil - Reference Point (1987), Commander in Chief (1993)

out winning time: 2mm 37.26sec Quest For Fame (1990) soft going

ngest-priced winner: Lammana 14.1 (1995

Top jeckey: W Carson - Nasswen (1989), Erheab (1994) tost winning time: 2mm 32.31soc Lammtarra (1995) term going

0 0 2 2 1 0 0

Fragrant Mix.

from generation to generation. Greyness is not actually a true colour but a bleaching 'mask' overlaid on one of the two basic thoroughbred shades, bay (of which brown and black are variations) and chestnut. If greyness is passed on from a parent, it is expressed in coat colour. If it is not passed on, it dies out of that line at that point. When it comes down to it, the

netics, with its dominant and recessive qualities of pairs of genes, governs the way the colour of a horse is transmitted

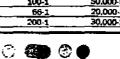
dants of The Tetrarch running it skips through successive gen-

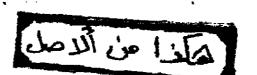
with honour this season in- erations from male to female at

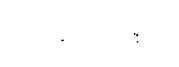
colour of a horse makes virtually no difference to its ability, but the way it can be traced as

chestnuls (29.5 per cent winners from 27 per cent runners) and against greys, but in time-hon-oured statistical fashion, that can be read either for or against our being due a grey winner. During the last century greys had become so rare on the racecourse that the 1881 Lincoln winner. Buchanan, is reputed to have terrified the opposition into submission with

	WILLIAM	HILL'S	FIELD	воок	
Horse	Current odds	Longest odd	s (1997) B	iggest bet (£)	Takeout (£)
Entrepreneur	4-5	33-1	60	,000-12.000	530,600
Silver Patriarch	11-2	66-1	2	1,000 3,000	193,750
Seasy The Dip	7-1	33-1	100	.000-10,000	288,750
Cloudings	11-1	33-1	3	3,000-1,000	247,700
Fahris	12-1	66-1	4	0.000-2,000	257,500
Bold Demand	20-1	56-1	6	6.000 1,000	215,600
The Fly	22-1	200-1	5	0,000-1,000	156.000
Romanov	26-1	50-1		20.000-400	182,500
Symonds len	28-1	150-1		25.000-750	164,750
Muselsei	33-1	50-1		16,500-500	204,500
Single Empire	33-1	50-1	5	0,000 1,000	102,000
Crystal Hearted	66-1	100-1		50,000-500	148,700
Tenents	decisated	66.7		20 030 500	ESOFO







Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3

D

EPSO!

2**31 Ca**o July 2

300 STAR MANAGER ---

218th DERBY: From a fancy-dress rehearsal at the age of 10 through a life of dedication Entrepreneur's rider is always prepared

#### Kinane follows Piggott's path to perfection

If Entrepreneur does not win the Derby this afternoon they will find Belmez, Commander in Chief and somebody to blame. As Greville Starkey will be able to tell Michael Kinane, when the posse mobilises and comes through the night with their torches, the meeting point will be the defeated jockey's home.

Starkey partnered numerous Classic winners in his enduring career, but the one ride he is remembered for was around Epsom's cambers one June day in 1986. Shahrastani won, but, more memorably, Dancing Brave lost and the belief is that Grev was caught napping.

They say Kinane could sleep on cheese wire and the prospect of sieering the odds-on Entrepreneur over the undulating battleground of the Surrey Downs has not disturbed the Irishman's reverie this week either. "Naturally enough everyone's attention is going to be on my every move, but then your own self-confidence to see the job through comes in and I've no great worries about the race," he says.

"If anybody says they're not nervous on Derby day then they're lying. The apprehension is all part and parcel of rising to the occasion, because you've got to be pysched up for the job. But I've no qualms about that side of it at all because I'm in an enviable position and others have more reason to worry than I do."

Michael Kinane has been a dramatic influence in British racing ever since he replaced Pat Eddery, who was committed to another horse, on the 1990 2,000 Guineas winner, Tirol. He was initially christened supersub, but the last syllable has long since disappeared.

Serendipity has continued to choose him as her favourite son. He has been united with further excelnow Entrepreneur, who was Walter Swinburn's ride until the ravages of a starvation diet removed him from the saddle.

Kinane has worked hard at his natural talents, buffing them up rather than letting rust creep in through mis-use. He prepares for a race like no other man in the weighing room.

Kinane used to buy the tapes from the closed-circuit television people to analyse his mistakes, and to this day spends hours assessing both his and other horses in a race, and how the encounter will unfold. The rider watched videos of the previous 20 Melbourne Cups before his victory on Vintage Crop in 1993.

Much of this musing takes place as he is shaving at his home on the Curragh, where he has been buying land around Clunemore Lodge down the years in a buffer-state policy. If an intruder had to plant a bug on the premises, the optimum position would be in his bathroom, behind one of three framed photographs de-picting, respectively, Marilyn Mon-roe, a fat lady on a bike and a gorilla looking at a club sandwich.

This practice, in his mind, is what gets Kinane closer to perfection than most. "It's not what he does well, it's what he does badly, and that's not a lot," John Reid, Kinane's fellow Irishman and Derby winner,

says. "He doesn't make mistakes. "He's got bags of ability, but more importantly he wants to work hard. I've known he was a very good rider for a long time, but until you prove yourself in England nobody wants to know. With Michael it's like a bottle of milk. No matter how many times you keep shaking, the cream will always come back to the top."

Richard Edmondson talks to the favourite's jockey with the punch to fend off pressure

Kinane's adherence to Baden-Powell philosophy has been particulary acute this week. "It's very important in racing to be prepared and on Derby day I will be," he says. "I'll know what I want to do through the race and I'll have run it over thousands of times in my head. The tactics will be in order and from then on it will be down to concentration.

"I know the track very well and I

'It's not what he does well, it's what he does badly, and that's not a lot'

know all the recent Derbys, I can replay them in my mind. I can remember at least as far back as when Lester started winning [on Never Say Dic in 1954] and I love watching him as the tactical master.

"All his Derby rides are memo-rable for his brilliance round there and, if you watch him, he was the only one who never seemed to be out of position at any time in the race."

While Piggott was all guile in the saddle and Dettori is sleek with the fast hands of a card sharp, the sensation with Kinane is of a terrible force building up behind a horse's neck.

One of his idiosyncrasies is that he grips his mounts' manes rather than the reins when he jumps out of the largely to the patronage of Dermot emerging from stall No 13.

stalls, a technique he witnessed in the United States. At a finish, he pushes his fists so forcefully into the neck of his conveyances that he is sometimes actually punching them. Kinane does not indulge in the

post-race circus tumbles of Dettori, but spectators cannot miss his reaction, particularly if he is denied. His body seems to struggle to contain the rage that is erupting inside.

Kinane is an appalling loser. His two young daughters know better than to beat him at draughts. He admits he is moody and the prisoner of his own thoughts, a condition which is made all the more frightening when the hairy barbed wire of his luxuri-ant fair eyebrows knots together.

Thus he is not one of those jockevs who sprinkles guests in a marquee with light repartee before going out to ride. If you are feeling lucky you can call him Mickey-Joe, as the braver in the weighing room spoof him. The surname is pronounced Kin-anne, as in the christian name.

This figure is from a racing family (his father Tommy won the 1978 nampion Hurdle on Monksfield) and it is fair to say not much else has occupied his mind during 37 years on the planet. When he attended a fancy-dress

party aged 10 he went as Piggott.

Another building block towards our man's character was his youthful period with Liam Browne, the Irish trainer who also produced the likes of Tommy Carmody, Mark Dwyer and Warren O'Connor. For many others Browne's stable was a different type of finishing school, an apprentice academy which was like

Tenko without the creature comforts. Kinane has emerged from this whitest of kilns to become the multiple champion of Ireland (thanks ling will be on the mind of the man

Weld) and a leading player in Hong Kong. The translation of his name into Chinese means dark tiger, which is good feng shui for the gamblingdemented public in the colony.

Kinane showed he was up to winning a Derby with Commander In Chief's triumph in 1993, the day he remembers "they were strung out be-hind me like a long line of brown cows". But now he is asked to withstand the metal-buckling pressure of piloting an odds-on shot around the world's most demanding circuit. His partner, ironically enough, has been prepared in much of his work on the Newmarket trial grounds by Starkey.

Entrepreneur has engendered ex-citement from the moment he surged away with the 2,000 Guineas last month. "The horse had speed at halfway when I really needed it," Kinane says. "He showed great acceleration to kick in and really grab hold of the race. It's always a sign of a good horse when he can take control at any time in a race. It was a great performance because he raced for the whole eight furlongs of the Guineas and not every horse is adaptable enough to do that."

Like many sportsmen, Kinane has been collected by the narcotic effect of winning at the highest level. "The hunger does not diminish," he says. "Once you get a taste of it you want more. That's what motivates you as you get older. What keeps me going more than anything is the big races

and trying to get on good horses. "It would be better to win the Derby this time because it would be more recent. You can't live on memories, they don't feed the children." We know by now, however, that when the stalls crash open at 3.45 this afternoon not even little Sinead or Ais-



#### Silver Charm attempts to win over America

RICHARD EDMONDSON

1 12:4 RAPAM (254) (15) (8F) (4 Abd, sint) J Costen (28) 9.0 L Dettor 7 113
2 1:34 DARASHANDER (21) (D) (8F) (4 HA, sint) J Costen (28) 9.0 L Dettor 7 113
3 11 VEREYA (14) (CD) (5 A Agr Ntan) A de Royer-Dupte 9.0 D Bloom 1 110
4 1612-0 RMASSAN (25) (Hamdon & Mellorum) J Gossen (38) 9.0 RBs 12 109
5 1:11 AUMNYS (157) (150 A Agr Ntan) A Mellorum Hare C Head 9.0 F Head 3 117
6 11:-26 MOUSSE GLACE (28) (8F) (5ay Resert J Lethories 9.0 T Houles 5 107
7 32:214 GOUEN RACKES (52) (D) (Ecure Raten Ousle) P Demortasted 9.0 T Houles 5 107
7 32:214 GOUEN RACKES (52) (D) (Ecure Raten Ousle) P Demortasted 9.0 T Houles 8 - 9.0 C2-111 BRAILIANNEE (FR) (21) (D) (Ecure Seymetr Farm) P Bay 9.0 T Houles 8 - 9.0 C2-111 BRAILIANNEE (FR) (21) (D) (Ecure Seymetr Farm) P Bay 9.0 S Gallot 4 113
10 12-4 DANAES WINT DEFENSE (28) (D) (Andre Rodein) D Seputive 9.0 D Decision 6 109
12 302-11 QUEEN MAND (42) (D) (Ecure Racket) D Seputive 9.0 D Decision 6 109
13 10 PALKE D'OR (28) (D) (8F) (Dane) Wilderstein) A Father 9.0 D Pestie 10 101
BETTING: 9-4 Always Loyal, 5-1 Britistance, 6-1 Vertex, Mousse Glaces, 7-1 Ryafan, 8-1 Queen Mand, 10-1 Palme D'Or, 12-1 others
1996: SI Sia 3 9.0 C Asmussen 28-1 (B Smart, GB) drawn (10) 12 inst Americans too are waiting to hail a wonder horse today. Silver Charm, who has already won the Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes, attempts to become only the 12th horse in history to complete the US Triple Crown in the Belmont Stakes at Belmont Park, New

This feat has not been achieved since 1978, when a little lad called Steve Cauthen partnered Affirmed to the hattrick. Four colts - Spectacular Bid, Pleasant Colony, Alysheba and Sunday Silence - have subsequently won the first two legs before falling at Belmont's final hurdle.

Should Silver Charm win he will join the exalted company of sure. The three-year-old is "It's been fun but I'll be glad such as Citation, Secretariat trained by a former history when it's all over," Baffert said.

and Seattle Slew, and he may teacher Bob Baffert, whose also prompt a celebration of the bizarre in the winners' enclo-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Entrepreneur (Epsom 3.45) NB: Conspicuous (Epsom 3.00)

post-race antics make Frankie Dettori look like a dullard. When he once captured a race

comed back his winner with a plastic pumpkin on his head. If Silver Charm, the 6-5 favourite, does indeed collect the 129th running of the Belmont he will earn a \$5m bonus.

on Halloween, Baffert wel-

"So far things have gone Peter Chapple-Hyani's Dances smoothly and the horse got

The Classics spill over into tomorrow too when three British Jockey-Club last weekend, howfillies make an assault on the ever, and the French resistance Prix de Diane (French Oaks) at once again looks formidable. Chantilly. The strongest of the The unbeaten Always Loyal challengers appears to be the who won her domestic 1,000 Dettori-ridden Ryafan, whose Guineas for Criquette Head, is trainer. John Gosden, is also likely to start favourite, and othrepresented by Khassah. The er influences may be Mousse

With Dreams.

The visitors were squashed in the colts' equivalent, the Prix du raiding party is completed by Glacee and Brilliance.

#### EPSOM ...

channel 2.00 Speed On 2.30 Can littues

1.0

 $\{p_i,p_i\}_{i=1}^{n}\}$ 

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; on

HYPERION 4.30 Tomba 5.05 Hoh Express 3.00 STAR MANAGER (nap) 5.35 My Best Valentine (nb)

CHANTILLY - Sunday

PRIX DE DIANE HERWES (ENGRY 2) 515 1m 2f 110yds Penalty Value £184,453

PRIX DE DIANE HERMES (Group 1) 3YO filles
BBC2

GOING: Good (back straight - Good to Firm). Pentrometer 3.0. STALLS: 7f. stands safe, 1f. outside: 1m 4f. centre; remainder - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best for 6f & 7f.

If Left-hand course, starp and undusting, the straight 5f course is the fastest in the country.

If Course is south of town - 15 nailes from the rentre of London. Three rail stations serve the course, Epsem (trains from Victoria and Waterloo) and the nearer Epsom Downs (Victoria) and Tattenham Corner (Charing Cruss and Victoria). ADMISSION: Queens Stand Members only (Juntors 17-21 520); Crib 540 (Juntors 17-21 512); Grandstand 520; Lonsdale Enclosures 10f. Tattenham 57; the 1ffill free. Accompanied under-16fa free all cruciosures except Queens Stand. CAR PARE: Cars on 10fl 510 (includes occupants).

ILEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: B Hammon - 15 winners from 125 runners gives a success railto of 1.196 and a locs to a 51 level stake of 561.09; B Akcharst - 11 winners, 75 runners, 34 runners, 32.2%, +59.83.

ILEADING JOCKETS: Pat Eddery - 18 wins, 94 rules, 19.76, -519.79; L Dettori - 11 wins, 74 rules, 14.96, -511.50; T Quian - 10 wins, 125 rules, 19.86, 584.51; S Sanders - 9 wins, 43 rules, 19.86, +535.23.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Trojan Sisk (3.00).

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DAYS: Literary Society (5.30) won at Newmarket on Saurrby. STALLS: if - stands sade, of - outside

Saturday.

LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Tercham (3.00) has been sent 267 miles by Martyn Wane from Meisunby, North Yorkshire.

—	_	
F	200	VODAC 'DASH' RATED HANDICAP (CLASS A) £45,000 added 5f Penalty Value £27,467
- 14	200	arided 5f Penalty Value £27,467
: -		The Paris Paris Described D Danner 69.4 Pat Friday 1 104
1	2.3026	BRAVE EDGE (7) (D) (Homs Vale Racing Partnership) R Hannon 6 9 4 Pat Eddery 1 104
- 5	06,515	PRINTE EDGE (7) (D) (Home vac record rule) D Nicholis 6 9 2Alex Greenes 10 105 YA MALAK (12) (D) (Corpse Promotes Ltd) D Nicholis 6 9 2Alex Greenes 10 105
•	1675.7	YA MALAR (12) (D) (1379282 Promotos lanes 4 9 0
	1423-3	BLUE (RS (27) (D) (RF) (M A Javes Marks ) Baiding 4 8 11
- 4	2 0205	C Rottler 9 109
~ <u>~</u>	360-50	DASHING BLUE (7) (20) UNB UNCAN HEAVY DESIGN UNCAN
6	00-140	REPERTORY (24) (D) (M S Saunders) M Saunders 4 8 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 4 5 6 5 6 6 6 6
7		
!	20200	TOWN 8 III ON THE PROPERTY OF
-18	30-000	ANOTHERADOWNERSAMT (38) (b) (Local Saliding 4 8 3
. 9	-31114	AMAZING BAY (24) (D) (Laty Parist)   Sauting 4 to 3   Remedien 5 8 3
18	09910	SURPRISE MISSION (24) (D) (D R BOTHERT) IN 1807 / 8 3 P. Roberts 12 105 LAUREL DELIGHT (2011) (D) (Laurel (Leisure) Limited) ) Berry 7 8 3 P. Roberts 12 105 LAUREL DELIGHT (2011) (D) (Laurel (Leisure) Limited) ) Berry 7 8 3 P. Roberts 12 105
. 11	000-44	LAUREL DELIGHT (301) (D) (Laurer (LASUS) Liftness 7 8 3 S Center 7 B 103 THAT MAN ASAIN (30) (3) (1) UT Dutly & R E Dutly & C Williams 5 8 3 S Center 7 B 103
		THAT MAN ASAIN (30) (3) (1) Duby & R.E. Duby 3 C. Walling S. C. Walling R. Pirench 4 106 NUMBAIT (USA) (215) (Godolphin) Saind bin Surior 3 7 11
12	62331	NUMBAIT (USA) (218) (GOLOGOM) Seaso of Status 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2
47	22168.	DAMESTIE NEGHTAWAY (/) 0.7 (LA DUSC): O MESSEL D.

Minimum might: 9st 3lb (3ye: 7st 10lb). Two hondicap weights: Laurel Deligit 7st 11lb, That Man Again 7st 11lb. Denostherrightsway 7st 9b. BETTINE: 5-1 Serprise Mission, 11-2 Ya Matak, 6-1 Deshing Bloe, 8-1 Blue Ms, Kawali, 10-1 Speed Oa, Anotheraminaranay, That Man Again, 12-1 Brave Siga, 16-1 Denostherlightsway, 20-1 Repertory, Laurel Delight, Amering Bay 1998: To The Roof 4 8 3 G Hind 6-1 to tay IP Hamisi drawn (14) 12 ran

FORM GUIDE

Anotheraumiversary has the early sac to take adventage of the plum draw. She will be sharper for two runs in conditions reces and she was a smart Juvenile. Those drawn high have an advantage so Laurel Delight, who finished ahead of Surprise Mineion on several occasions last season, can be fencied from stail 12. She's without a recent run but Jack Berry's horses are in great form. SPEED ON, who won a maiden at his leisure at Bevertey last year is preferred. He faced some mighty tasks afterwards and it's been the same story FORM GUIDE last year is preferred. He faced some mighty tests afterwards and it's bean the same story on two starts this term what with the mud at Chester and the class at Kempton. This could be his day and he's talean to cut them all down from stall rine. Surptise Mission is on a high, but stall five sets him a stiffer test, and Speed On meets him 11lb better compared to Chester. Ye litelack can be considered the form horse and he has a discard draw (10). A close fath after being switched to Croft Pool in the Temple States at Sandown, he meets Brawe Edge (second from a good draw) on 2b better terms. Brave Edge has the worst of the draw for the second year running (skith 12 months ago), and Blase line is smillarly handicapped in stall two.

Selection: SPEED ON

	Suppopula Of ELD Off
.30	VODAFONE DIOMED STAKES (Group 3) (CLASS A) £50,000 added 1m 114yds Penalty Value £32,000
13410-	ALMUSHTARAK (315) (H Al-Museus) K. Mahdi 4 9 4
1031	CAP JULICA (10) (D) (Martin Mess) R Crarton 5 9 4
	KAMBITARRA (USA) (65) (Sprinishin) Speed by Surter 4.9.4
106-21	POLAR PRINCE (12) (C) (Mrs Crystine Stevensor) M Janes 4 9 4
05-051	PRINCE OF MY HEART (20) (0) (G J Hids) 8 Hits 4 9 4
1013-6	HURRICANE STATE (USA) (41) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 389
211-12	AMED ALBADU (USA) (14) (Hamdan Al Makeouni) J Dunkop 3 8 6
11	FACTHFUL SON (USA) (11) (Maléourn Al Maléourn) M Stoute 3 8 6
	13410- 10-31 0-1110 106-21 05-051 1013-6 211-12

44-155 FANTASTIC FELLOW (13) (the Bronughous Corporation) C Brossin 3 5 6_0 Pesiter 7 102

— 9 declared

— 9 declared

TitNe: 7-4 Faithful Son, 5-1 Aniel Albudu, 11-2 Kommitten, 6-1 Festinstic Fellow, Cep Julies, 12-1 are Prince. Prince Of the Heart, 20-1 Harricone State, 33-1 Albumbitanik SETTING: 7-4 Faktidal Son, 5-1 Amid Alburk, 11-2 Komatiara, 6-1 Polar Prince, Prince Of My Heart, 20-1 Harricane State, 33-1 Air 1996: Blomberg 4 9 4 D Varrison 6-1 U Fenstewe) drawn (4) 8 am

1996: Blomberg 4 9 4 D Harrison 6-1 (J Fenshwell drawn (4 8 sen FORM GUIDE)

Faithfull Som bent Shaheen at Newbury in a trive only merginally allower than First Island's in the Lockings. Faithful Son has since dotted up in a conditions race at Leicester—a race Zibal won en route to better trings. FANTASTIC FELLOW, who bypessed the Denty for this, locked a crackerjeck on his debut at York last September and he's back with his winning Matsons-Laffitte partner Other Pester stire cradiable runs in the French and irish Gumeas. Resentations flooped behind Singaplel in the Dubel World Cup last time. He was a beaten fasourite in the Cambridgesthire after beating All-Royal at Doncaster, and has something to prove with the stable hardly fing at present. Newbury handloop winner Anald Albedia lumed in a good time when short-headed by the talented Among Man in a Listed race at Kempton a formight ago. A good run can also be expected from recent Capermalle winner Polar Phince, who won a handloop at this fadure last year.

Selections FANTASTIC FELLOW

#### 3.00 LONDON CAR TELEPHONES HANDICAP (CLASS B) E50,000 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £31,650

The booking of Mick Kinane for Reg Alekhurst's Fallis is doubly interesting – Fallis winning with ease at Sandown last time. James Tolier, who won a decent sprint with Literary Society last Saturday, also houses a progressive type in THE DIRETTANTI, who can defy the burden after his clear-cut win at Newmarket. Ne ran a stormer down the outside here on his acoppearance when fourth to Major Change and Changeagne Prince, and his books up to the task of beeting the per today even without a noticeable weight pull. Champagne Prince has since won the Zettand at Redox (Tertians sidth and runner-up in this last year) and the 4th higher mark doesn't look severe after the second Walt's runnway win at Ayr next time. Auturation Cover stays the trip and has a leading chance with Royston Firench taking off 5th. He won the Jubilee Stakes at Kempton last time and the form is decent with Gold Spats third) and Welpon Asserial (fourth) winning since, Spliffic Libro, highly tried at York last month, won at the floture last year from Trojaia Risk, who is now 10th better off and an interesting runner in his first-time blinkers. FORM GUIDE

4	.30	TALKLAND STAKES (CLASS B) £35,000 added 3YO 7F Penalty Value £20,937	
1	-54111	FOMBA (14) (C) (J R Good) B Mestran 9 9	y 1.119
2	513-10	HIDDGN MEADOW (35) (7) (Scorps Strawbridge)   Beitling 9 ()	2116
3	1-0	TYCOON TOOD (USA) (35) (Soddighm) Seest bin Surger 9 ( L Deting	d 5 209
4	352-01	WASP RANGER (USA) (18) (Chastopher Whight) P Cale 9 0T Quia	4 104
5	40-140	ZAREJSKI (35) (D) (B H Voek) C Britain 9 C	s 3 101
8	1355	MCONSHINE 6881, (USA) (273) (Seed Heldourn Al Malapuri) M Stoute 8 6 Rei	46117
		O dambarand	

- 6 declared -BETTING: 10-11 Hidden Meadow, 3-1 Tombs, 4-1 Tycose Todd, 10-1 Wasp Ranger, 12-1 Mos Gal, 20-1 Zaretski 1990: Ramocz 3 9 4 W Ryen 5-2 y few Bi Harbursh drawn (1) 7 dec

len Balding bypasses the Diomed Stakes with HDDEN MEADOW, who looks home and hosed in this much weaker league. Tombia promises to be suited by this trip after his progressive wins over six, but he really wants the must to show off his take?s. Also, it looks a stern test for him conceding 9th for Hoden Meadow, the five-length free Handicap writer over this trip and then found out in the Guineas at Newamrket. Tycoon Todd mode his reappearance in the Guineas, but still with a bit to find after a debut win at York last September. The remaining trio look out of their depth. Michael Stoute's filly Moonshine Gliff was third in last yeer's Queen Many Stakes at Royal Ascot.

Selection: HIDDEN MEADOW

5.05 PAKNET RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £40,000 added 1m 4f Penalty Value £23,650

_.O Pestler 5 ....L Dettori 3 130-21 GENE ME A RONG (23) (G Read) C Thornton 4 8 6 30-144 ROMOS (12) (C Shecoles) P Cole 581_ 4-0001. HOH EXPRESS (1.6) (D) (D) F Albord | Balding 5 & 1 00004. LOMBARDIC (USA) (273) (D) (Bonsspira) / Old 6 B _K Dadey ( 21151- WILLIE CONQUER (233) (D) (R Tooth) R Alehursi 5 8 0 320-30 ARTIC COURSER (84) (CD) (A D Hardy) D Cosgrove 6 8 0 ...

BETTING: 3-1 Sive Me A Ring, 4-1 Arabian Story, 5-1 Hot Express, 6-1 Harbour Dues, 8-1 Wille Consum, Rousies, 10-1 Rocky Clarks, 12-1 Lomburdic, 14-1 Artic Courier quer, Romies, 10-1 Rocky Casis, 12-1 Lombardic, 14-1 Artic Court 1990: Backgammon 5 8 0 J Quan 6-1 U Old drawn (4) 9 ran

5.35 VODAPAGE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £35,000 added 6f Penalty Value £24,054 66-55 MARL (17) (Sir Enc Parker) R Alehust 4 9 3... 5 266-55 MARK (17) (Sir Dir. Parket) R Methats 4 93.

2000-1 YOULDOWSAY (28) (b) (Tom Michols) T J Naugriton 5 9 2.

7 11121- CLAM CHIEF (286) (b) (P G Lowel J Annold 4 9 1.

8 3121-55 IORA (8) (D) (88) (I E Wilson) J L (5ye 7 9 1.

9 360-30 FOR THE PRESENT (11) (D) (89) (Ms J hasel) T D Berron 7 9 0.

10 -00052 WHITE EMIR (10) (89) (The Three Bears Roong) B Meethan 4 8 12.

11 24-251 LITERARY SOCIETY (USA) (T) (Ledy Ceime Carter) J Toller 4 8 9.

12 30-100 LORD DUNHER (21) (50) (J Nurn. The Daly Mach W Javas 7 8 9.

- 12 46ctowd -

-2 Sulherstpork Flyer, 7-1 Literary Society, 15-2 Lord Othier, 8-1 My Best Valentine, 6 y, 18-1 Eastern Prophets, Kise, Mari, 12-1 For The Present, White Emit, 14-1 Class Chief burstpark River 5 8 8 P Roberts (5) 12-1 (J Berry) drawn (9) 17 ran

#### EPSOM

edge in 5f sprints here. Ian Balding's pair Deshing Bhe and Amazing Bay are both nicely drawn and
there looks little between them at
the weights. SPEED ON hit top
orm in June last year and his latest two outrops will have not him. est two outings will have pot on for this task.

30: CAP JULUCA seemed back o his best when making all to win eadily over 10 furlongs at Newburn ast week. He steps back in distant oday but is perfectly berthed gainst the inside rail to test these reak. The chief threat is a likely late hour form A - A Banks hrust from Amid Albadu. 

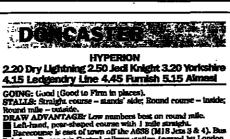
3.60: The Dilettanti and Chamragne Prince are among those limbing the weights after recent wins. Better handicapped runners ook to be Conspictions, who perorms well on downland tracks, loally-trained Trojan Risk, and STAR MANAGER, unlucky when ailing to gain a clear run last time.



3.45: Silver Patriarch will be stay-ing on well but probably needs soft going to produce his best. Fahris is also stoutly-bred but a recent holdup in his preparation counts against him. Entrepreneur could well prove too classy for this field, but tight bdds and a slight stamma doubt makes it tempting to look elsewhere. Assessing the true ability of the aptly-named CLOUDINGS is problemented but if approached but if a possible but if approached but if a possible but if a possib natical, but if sugge that at home he is not far behind André Fabre's brilliant Peintre Celebre are accurate then he is the each-way bet at morning odds.

000 4.30: Rain would greatly favour TOMBA's bid to record a five-timer.

	- 200
200	Epsom - 3.00
Epsom - 2.00	Home C H L T
Home C H L T	Febs 7-2 4-1 4-1 4-1
Suprise Mission 92 92 41 41	Characteristics Prince 8-1 9-1 9-1 9-1
Ta Mathik 11-2 6-1 6-1 5-1	Main Casses 81 91 91 91
Decking Place 61 61 61 74	Rockforce 7-1 7-1 8-1 9-1
Shorts 84 74 84 64	Perdam 9-1 7-1 8-1 9-1
Marriet 10-1 7-1 8-1 8-1	The Dilettrent 10-1 9-1 8-1 9-1
Speed On 8-1 8-1 11-1 10-1	Trojan Rick 10-1 7-1 8-1 7-1
74 81 81 11-1	Authorn Cour 12-1 11-1 11-1 9-1
*** *** 101 101	Complesses 124 144 121 11-1
121 141 141	Spidin 1840 14-1 17-1 14-1 14-1
444 461 161 161	Harriers Of Brook 14-1 16-1 11-1 14-1
201 201 181 201	Backet HE Boy 201, 201, 151, 204,
	Star Manager 16-1 16-1 20-1 18-1
monthsy 181 201 141 181	Heavy The Fibb 201 33-1 33-1 25-1
and Delett 25.1 25.1 25.1 25.1	Fortuge a purpose the oath, places 1, 2, 3
Earth-way a quarter the cobs. places 1, 2, 3	C - Cosal, N - William Hill, L - Ladockes, T - Total
. Com to the beautiful a section of the little of the litt	11 *



indercounts to the control railway station (served by London, King's Cross). ADMISSION: Club \$16; Grandstand \$10; Fami-by Enclosure \$4 (under-16s free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free. SCHNEEPED PIEST TIME: None.
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Northern Motor (4.16) has been
sent 244 miles by J Goldle from Uplawanor, Strathelyde.

VODAFONE DERBY DAY MAIDEN AUCTION 2.20 STAKES (CLASS E) £4,025 added 240 6f 56 ALPEN WOLF (26) W Mair 8 11... 4 ESTOPPED (31) M Channon 8 11 TIVAL PLYTER (35) R Boss 8 11 .. MOHAMK (14) | Dunicy 8 11
PRENITAL PURSUIT (16) R Fahey 8 11
EDDIE ROMBO IN Trivier 8 8.
HARNAGE (22) M Chemicy 8 8. ... A Clark 3

bon Wands (5) 16

N Variey 10

M Fentandor (3) 1

OO LATRIK BAY (42) P Harris 8 5 O LORD OF LOVE (S) TEMS Epsom - 3.00 th-Osbourne 8 3.D O'Dom

O NO SHAME (21) / 6 Smyth-Osbourne 8
STARL MER M British 8 3
4 ELA FILLS (11) T D Barron 8 0
406 SCENE (5) M Media 8 0 = 2.1 contents = 8ETTING: 4p-1 Mohamit, 5-1 Ele Rells, 7-1 Festhal Flyer, 8-1 Country Garden, 10-1 Estopped, Dry Lightning, 12-1 Alpen Welf, 16-1 ethers. 2.50 KONICA EAST DIRECT HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 7f

53-623 LOOK WHO'S CHLINE (L4) B MeMehon 4 10 0 M Wighins 9
40640 TOWNEY (ISA) (129) (150) M Hammord 8 10 0 ... A Clink 1.
6600-0 CELANOWE (12) A Turtell 4 9 8... A Day (5) 15
4355 TICKOTHAN (322) M Hammord 3 9 7... G Dalland 10
-30630 JO MASSAUG (32) (0) J Smyll-Deboums 5 9 7. R Perham 13
501614 ALLINSON'S MATE (9) (20) (8F) T D Beson 9 9 6... Globately Hart (7) 12 8 0-0010 HALBANGEROR (1-9 (C) (D) (RF) Mrs J Remoter 7 95.

School- Page ROSE LAD (229) (IS 1) For 7 9.5. 

6-0652 LIBERA ISSUE (5) (CD) W Haigh 5-8-11 -00502 JEDI IRRIGHT (7) M W Eastarby 3-8-1 ... -00-0 HORCAKE (12) Mas S Hall 4-7-10 .... -00010 ORBOLE (8) (D) Enfo Incise 4-7-10 .... — 15 Sectored — 3,20 WORTHINGTON STAKES (CLASS C) £8,000 - 6 dt BETING: 7-4 Yorkshire, 3-1 Geruda mier Bay, 10-1 Poseidan 4.15 SASHA LYONS MEMORIAL HANDICAP (CLASS D) £8,000 added 1m 4f

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#### "I'M LUCKY **BECAUSE I HAVE** ANATHLETE **BETWEEN MY** WILLIE CARSON

NOT EVERYTHING IN BLACK AND WHITE MAKES SENSE. GUINNESS

lan Stafford interviews Jacques Villeneuve

FIRST TEST: Breathtaking double century and Thorpe's cultured 138 tighten England's grip as toiling tourists sweat in the field

#### **Hussain the** hammer of the Aussies

DEREK PRINGLE

reports from Edgbaston Australia 118 England 449-6

If disbelief was still suspended after their riveting performance on Thursday, it was surely banished for good yesterday as England batted Australia out of this First Test match. By the time rain brought a premature end to the day's play they were 331 runs ahead and still batting.

Domination on this scale, particularly against the Aussies. has rarely come easily to England, and it took a double century of quite breathtaking assurance by Nasser Hussain, as well as a fine century by Graham Thorpe, to set the occasion

up.
For Hussain and Thorpe this
was clearly payback time, not
least for the previous torments
inflicted upon them by this opposition. Their reward, after a second successive morning of glory for England, was to break and extend by some 66 runs the record for fourth-wicket partnerships against Australia, a milestone previously held by Walter Hammond and Eddie Paynter, who put on 222 at

AR Caddick 5-50; D Gough 3-43]. ENGLAND - First Innings Overnight: 200-3)

(Overnight: 200-3) M A Butcher c Healy b

16 min, 13 balls, 2 fours *M A Athenton c Healy b Mc

10 min, 4 balls tA J Stewart c Effort b Gife

51 min, 33 balls, 3 fours N Hussain c Healy b Warne ..... 439 min, 336 balls, 38 fours

G P Thoroe c Bevan b McGrath

M A Fatham not out

R D B Croft not put

Edras (b4,lb7,w1,nb13) ...

Total (for 6, 512 mln, 1291, overs) __449 Fait; 1-8 (America), 2-16 (Butcher), 3-50 (Stewart), 4-338 (Thorpe), 5-345 (Craw-

293 min, 245 balls, 19 fours

Records, however, were incidental on a day which, if not possessing the adrenalin buzz of the first morning, was still an en-thralling day of Test match cricket, and another good one for England. It is not often Australia look quite as helpless in the field as they did when Hussain and Thorpe strutted their stuff, and watching them labour will have brought a perverse

pleasure to many. Hussain, in particular, treated the Australian attack as he might treat the net bowlers on a flattie at Chelmsford. Part of the privilege of watching pro-fessionals play at the height of their powers is to marvel at how easy they make it all look.

Like Mark Ramprakash, Hussain has had to conquer his own personal demons over the ears. But if frustration and disappointment used to be confronted by tantrums, this passionate man has now managed to separate the tempest from the tempestuous heart - a leap fully endorsed by those who have

moments early in the day, when he padded up to a couple of Glenn McGrath's inswingers. the Essex vice-captain treated the bowling with a princely dis-

Second day: 250: 270 mms, 57 o vers, 300: 310 mms, 78.3 overs. New ball taken: 311-3 after 82.2 overs. Lunch: 335-3 (Hussain 158, Thorpe 135) 89 overs 350: 382 mms, 08.3 core: 400: 420 overs 140.3 core 150.3

100: 253 mt, 189 bels, 17 fours. 100: 253 mt, 189 bels, 17 fours. 150: 327 mt, 245 bels, 26 fours. 200: 441 min, 321 bels, 37 fours. 100: 150 min, 164 bels, 14 fours. 100: 150 min, 164 bels, 14 fours. Ungives: S A Bucknor and P Wiley. William I Manufact William I William I Manufact. 100: 150 min, 164 bels. 14 fours.

dain that ought to have silenced his many critics. On a day of many pleasures, Hussain's shot selection was about as perfect as it could get, but then so was the execution.

His dismantling of Shane Warne was nothing short of masterful, and it was the crowning moment in what is surely the best innings of his career. In the over that led to his double century he took three boundaries

off the leg-spinner. There has been no more emphatic gesture against the Australians since Botham clobbered them about Old Trafford in 1981 and Hussain's celebrations - the spit of Chris-to Redentor overlooking Rio as the whole of Edgbaston rose to pay homage were justifiably exultant.

A fast-food junkie, Hussain spent Thursday night eating Chinese take-away in his room. But if his penchant for a bit of stir fry plays havoc with the latest nutritional advice (Mike Atherton's men have apparbacked his appointment as
Atherton's vice-captain.

Apart from a few palpitating ently replaced a post-match beer and fag with mineral water and pizzas), it was nothing compared to the chop sucy he made of Warne, whom he cut and drove to the boundary with

Watching Warne struggle is not something any serious cricket fan will glory in. Apart from being the best thing that has happened to cricket in the last 10 years, his wrist spin has helped revive not only a dying art, but interest in Test cricket

His problems, however, are undoubtedly self-inflicted, and his prodigious talent has meant a workload that beggars belief. But if getting his side to the top was a challenge for Warne. keeping them there has required Herculean efforts which ave inevitably taken their toll.

From watching him yestertween caressing him through extra, and cutting him past point, he appears to be carry-



trademark Al Jolson moue with zinc-whitened lips has taken a back seat, as his 35 overs went

Even so, he probably sensed why else would someone who has taken 99 per cent of his 241 Test wickets with just two deing a sore shoulder. It is an in-jury every wrist spinner dreads. It is an in-jury every every wrist spinner dreads. It is an in-jury every 
not all uphill and he later had the consolation of taking Hussain's wicket as the batsman, closing the bat face on a legbreak, edged behind to Ian

Warne was not the only bowler found wanting. Without the pace of Jason Gillespie, who and one which is clearly com- per - want to cook up any pub- Australian attack, as Thorpe set in as John Crawley, struggling

The Surrey left-hander was the first to reach the three-figure mark, but the real celebrations began when his long time mucker Hussain joined him there a

After lunch, Thorpe mishit McGrath's first ball loosener to Michael Bevan at mid-wicket. The dismissal caused some-

outswinger to Healy off the deserving Michael Kasprowicz.

It was a period that would not have worried Atherton unduly. If they can help it, England will spective of how long that innings lasts. That is the way to win Test matches and Australia's only hope of wriggling out of the noose now will be to make England bat again.

#### 'It does not get better than this

JON CULLEY

For the second day running Edgbaston crowd watche delirious disbelief as Englis continued the humbling of the Australians. After Thurs orgy of wicket-taking, now re flowed in a torrent from the cultured willows of Grat Thorpe and Nasser Hussain a triumph of English bassa ship to rival any witnessed in Ashes series since the war

Hussain, whose early retation as an *enfant tet*á threatened to terminate Test career before it had pre-erly begun, delivered a total force, an innings as imperious has been witnessed from Englishman in recent ye Thorpe, meanwhile, enhand his standing as the side's in reliable performer.

"I always thought I mi double-hundred one day b I thought it might be against G ford or Cambridge University Hussain said. "Cricket its not get any better than this? Their mood was light-hear

ed, television cameras offic catching them smiling laughing, and they marked ea passing milestone with an or brace. Both, however, were quick to dispel any suggestion that their easy progress yesterday will create complacency, not least when it comes to the still potent threat of Shane Warne.

This wicket has not suited Warne. The ball sat up and that gave us more time," Hussain said. "But we have to keep our feet on the ground because this Australian side will come back at us."

Thorpe added: "The pitch was not doing so much for Shane and there were not many around the bat, so it was a case of trying to cash in. We know it will not always be that way.

It was all too much for some of the Australians present. The broadcasters of Channel Nine. for example, abandoned their live coverage in favour of Patrick Rafter's bid to reach the French Open tennis final.

The Australian team, meanwhile, have asked their selectors; inforce their squad. Andrew Bichel and Jason Gillespie are injured, while Greg Blewett is fit enough only to bowl. Adam Dale, the Queenslander, is thought the most likely candidate.

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#### Ashes scholars hard at work behind the scenes

HENRY BLOFELD

One of the most impressive features of England's performance in this first Test has been the meticulous planning which has so obviously gone into all aspects of their game. Nothing has been left to chance.

In the field it was clear that the strengths and weaknesses of all the Australian batsmen had been identified. Bowlers knew nings in terms of partnerships the Australians were first sur-where they had to bowl, the and not individuals had also been prised, then downhearted, and fi-

fielders were placed accordingly, and the new ball was not wasted by bowling too wide of the stumps. The careful planning was also seen in the batting. Nasser Hussain and Graham Thorpe gave the bowlers almost nothing. For hour after hour their concentration never wavered and they seldom made the mistake of playing at a ball

they could leave alone. The business of building an in-

extensively gone into. Hussain and Thorpe played for each other and, though it may sound silly to say so, they showed an obvious closeness and friendship that says much for the spirit in the dressing-room.

Building a partnership must be easier if you can understand and communicate with the chap at the other end. Hussain and Thorpe's batting was craftsmanship of the highest order and

nally dejected and demoralised. The loss of Jason Gillespie with a hamstring injury was a blow but Glenn McGrath and Shane Warne are fine Test bowlers and might have been expected to engage in a reasonably successful damage-limitation exercise.

McGrath, who for some extraordinary reason was asked to bowl at the start of the second day in partnership with Warne and not with Mike Kasprowicz. showed his inexperience against batsmen who refused to allow

him to dominate. But he is a good bowler who will still, surely, have an impact on a series which is only two days old. It was a measure of Hussain and Thorpe's superb batting that McGrath was never allowed, apart from a couple of overs at the start, to feel that he was on top. He needs to learn that he must pitch the ball

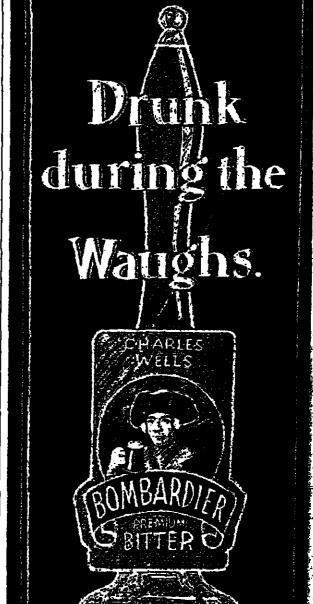
Australian good length is too short for a fast bowler here. day for Australia was the poor stand may be better understood.

up a little further in England; an

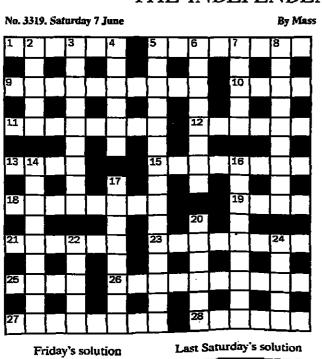
showing of Warne. For four years, no matter how slow the pitch, Warne's wrist spin fizzed as he ripped his fingers round the ball. The operation on his spinning finger must be the reason for this no longer hap-

His control, too, is not what it was, although one must give credit to the batsmen for this as they never let Warne settle. Some time in August the full val-The most worrying part of the ue of Hussain and Thorpe's

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#### **ACROSS**

County supporters (6) Moving articles from Europe, reported mat-

ter (5,3) Entirely cut. ruined scene's effects (10) 10 One with little to say

about strike (4) 11 Radical tag, rounded figure, is couched in Latin metre (8) 12 Heart discarded in careless state's the Knave (6)

15 Doctor has to assess gash (8) 18 Beat to music, frenzied hot stuff (8) 19 Part of UK abandoned

by Henry's parent (4) 21 A little short of cash, the European writer (6) 23 Show off, playing a modern piano (4-4) 25 Vent complaint against

bridge player (4)

26 Nerve sees boy level with northern Head 27 Odd drill in test proves worthless (8) 28 Loses sleep? Settles without hint of worry (6)

#### DOWN 2 Uneasy giving present?

Cooks files, as if

crooked (9) State, on rolling of film,

is breathtaking (6) Running down a Parisian with rude lip in description (15)

Confound - almost destroy - a plot (8) Feature of Edinburgh's reels (5) A party flower (white) A case of free tuition (4) 8

> Salesman needs time to introduce the Spanish line in fashion? Right 16 I screened off a villa (9)
>  17 Endless peace captured by paintbrush - and

easily mounted (8) 20 One bearing South for French city (6) 22 Finest carbon papers (5) 24 Where players are ac-tive in attack? (5)

The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hardhacked copies of the Oxford Dictionary of Quotations. Answers and winners' maines will be published next Saturday Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P. O. Box 4018. The Independent, I Canada Square. Canary Wharf, London El 4 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: S McGonald, Wirat, T Wilson, Brotilwick, Mrs M Kettle, Longibortogh; J Whittaker, Cherley: D Johson, Nottingham.

#### Long weekend for **Five Nations**

**Rugby Union** 

They said it had would happen. and it has. Winter Saturday afternoons will never be the same again after yesterday's announcement that next year's Calcutta Cup match between Scotland and England will be the first Five Nations' game to he played on a Sunday.

The Murrayfield fixture on 22 March will be the first of two Five Nations games to he switched next season, Wales v France at Wembley on 5 April being the other. In another break with tradi-

tion, staggered Saturday kickoff times will also be tried in a move aimed, according to FIve Nations' organisers, at heightening the profile of the tournament and making it available to a wider audience.

"It is the express wish of the Five Nations Committee to enable as big an audience as possible to witness the oldest and most respected rughy tournament in the world." Roger Pickering, the Five Nations chief executive, said, "We feel the time is now right to change the format of the championship that has been in place since

For the players, some ad-

iustments will be necessary. From the players and supporters point of view, all their biorhythms are for a Saturday so this will take some getting used to," the England coach, Jack Rowell, said. "Increasingly, though, top level rugby is being played on a Sunday, especially given the amounts of

television investment, but we

look forward to it. From a lo-

gistical point of view, it will have no effect on our preparations." The BBC is all for the change. "We welcome this refreshingly flexible approach to the Five Nations format which ensures that viewers will see even more live rugby union on BBC television," Jonathan Martin, Controller of Television Sport, said. "It has been increasingly frustrating in recent years to have two matches

played at the same time." The Scottish Rugby Union also expressed its support, albeit qualified. "Despite having some reservations the SRU neither believes that neither spectator numbers nor public interest will diminish," its president. Fred McLeod, said,

1998 FME NATIONS' CHAMPIONSME Rovised schoolate: T Feb France v England (too); Vetand v Scotland (3.0), 21 Feb Scotland v France (3.0); England v Wales (too); 7 Mar Wales v Scotland (3.45); Fance v Island (100, 21), Mar Indoord v Wales (3.0); 28 Mar Indoord v Market (3.0); 28 Mar Indoord v Market (3.0); 28 Mar Indoord v Market (3.0); 28 Market

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BREWED BY THE CHARLES WELLS FAMILY BREWERY, BEDFORDSHIRE, EST. 1976

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MAGE OF Dawn over the countryside near Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent and balloons float over a weekend rally of vintage cars, bikes and aeroplanes. The stars are the balloons, which come in all shapes including a house, THE WEEK a whisky bottle, and Bertie Bassett of liquorice Allsort fame. Photograph by Philip Meech using a Nikon F90 with a 20mm lens, 1/125th sec at f8, with a multi-film. To order this picture phone 0171-293 2534



#### **WORDS OF THE WEEK**

Leonardo da Vinci wrestled with the belief that fossils provided a key to the earth's structure. His findings on Codes' to colled fossils were enshrined in the 'Leicester Codex', so called because it was the property of the Earl of Leicester for more than 250 years. Professor Stephen Jay Gould contends that the 'Codex' as a whole is indeed a proposal for the structure of the earth, and is also a crucial insight into Leonardo's artistic and spiritual beliefs.

he irony of Leonardo's notebooks is that by the time they were published a couple of centuries later, most of his wonderful observations had already been made again. So Leonardo comes across as a spaceman, a man out of his time. The myth continues that Leonardo stood alone and above because he combined his unparalleled genius with a thoroughly modern methodology based on close observation and clever experiment.

I think that this conventional view couldn't be more wrong in its general approach to the history of knowledge, or more stultifying in our quest to understand the most fascinating man of our intellectual past. We'll never understand him if we insist on reading him as a modernist among the Medicis, a futurist at the court of Francis the First. Leonardo operates in the con-text of his time. To understand him we must chronicle and respect the medieval sources and character of his thought.

I'm going to begin by acknowledging the truly prescient character of the observations, but what alternative account of fossils was Leonardo trying to disprove with these observations, and secondly, what

theory of the earth was he trying to support?

I have a favourite line from Darwin, from an 1863 letter. How can anyone not see that all observation must be for or against some view if it is to be of any ervice?" Leonardo's keen observations do seem to amit a wonderful whiff of modernity, but he recorded all his information explicitly to confute the two major interpretations of fossils current in his day, which had been proposed to resolve a problem. Namely, if fossil shells were the remains of marine organisms, how

#### understand Leonardo if we think of him as a modernist among the Medicis'

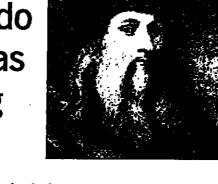
did they get entombed in strata that lie in mountains

thousands of feet above present sea levels?

The first idea that he wants to ridicule is that the fossils were transported by the high waters and violent currents of Noah's flood - an idea that remained standard until the 18th century.

He deals even more contemptuously with neo-platonic versions of the theory that fossils are not remnants of ancient organisms at all, but manifestations of some plastic force within the rocks or some emanations from the stars capable of precisely mimicking a living creature in order to illustrate the symbolic harmony among realms of nature. Because if the fossils really belong to the mineral kingdom, then their position on the tops of mountains ceases to be anomalous: they're not real organisms. This was a real issue, and the confutation of it was a major event in

17th-century paleontology. Just as Leonardo made his astute observations to refute prevailing theories of fossils, he also words his interpretations to support his own favourite theory. On this point, he could not have been more squarely Renaissance or late medieval, more firmly attached to his own time and concerns, and not to ours.



Why does he devote so much apparently subsidiary space to the nature of fossils? The key to the problem lies in water, and in Leonardo's almost heroic struggle to overcome the essential difficulty in validating his crucial analogy of the earth's macrocosm to the body's microcosm. Both are made of the four elements: earth, air, fire and water. But the human body saves itself by circulating these elements, particularly by maintaining some mechanism for permitting water to rise from the legs to the head. The analogy of microcosm to macrocosm can work only if the earth also possesses a comparable mechanism. He knew water moved up - somehow - because it came out as springs at the top of the mountain.

Now, here's the central irony. He never did solve the problem that was the main subject of the Leicester Codex: he never found a satisfactory mechanism to account for the upward motion of water. However (and this is a vital point that has usually been missed). Leonardo did succeed in his quest to find a mechanism for the upward motion of the other heavy element: earth. The fossils on the mountains provide the observational truth that the earth can rise.

His argument is that the earth's structure is not

homogeneous. It's a marbled mass of rocks and internal canyons and of waters — one hemisphere of th earth, as Leonardo saw it, is heavier than the other. The earth has to balance itself as a see-saw: if you're heavier, you have to move yourself closer to the centre. Therefore, the heavier hemisphere has to move towards the centre and the lighter hemisphere

has to move away, to keep the balance.

Leonardo thinks that every once in a while a piece from the earth's interior is eroded - in this illustration, from the upper hemisphere - and falls into the centre and drapes itself around the centre of gravity. The bottom hemisphere gets heavier and moves in towards the centre, and the upper hemisphere rises. and the strata that contained the fossils underwater are pushed up to form mountains. What's the proof that this is true? Again, the fossils on the mountains.

Now we can grasp the central importance of Leonardo's paleontological observations in the Leicester Coder. He features this subject in order to validate the cherished centrepiece of his pre-modern world view: the earth as living, self-sustaining organism. He requires above all a general device to make the heavy elements, earth and water, move upwards against their natural inclination so that the earth can sustain itself like a living body. He failed to find such a mechanism for the chief subject of the Leicester Codex, water, and his lack of resolution caused him great frustration, but he succeeded, as he thought, for the even heavier element of earth. But

he needed evidence that land did in fact rise. Thus, Leonardo made his superb observations in order to validate his lovely but antiquated view of a meaningful and precise unity between the human body's microcosm and the earth's macrocosm. Leonardo: a truly brilliant observer. No spaceman, but a citizen of his own instructive and fascinating time.

Professor Stephen Jay Gould: 'Leonardo's "Modern" Observations on Fossils: The Medieval Context and Rationale'. Part of the Last Word lunch-time lecture series at the Royal Geographical Society

#### INSIDE

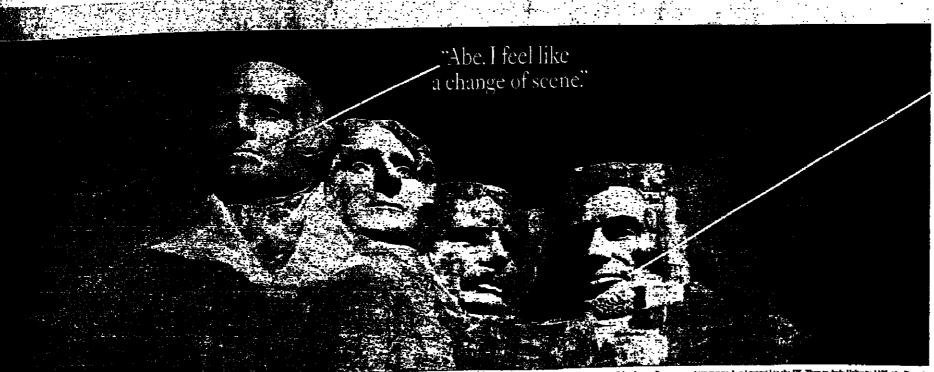
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William Hartston rediscovers a game invented by one of the first world chess champions

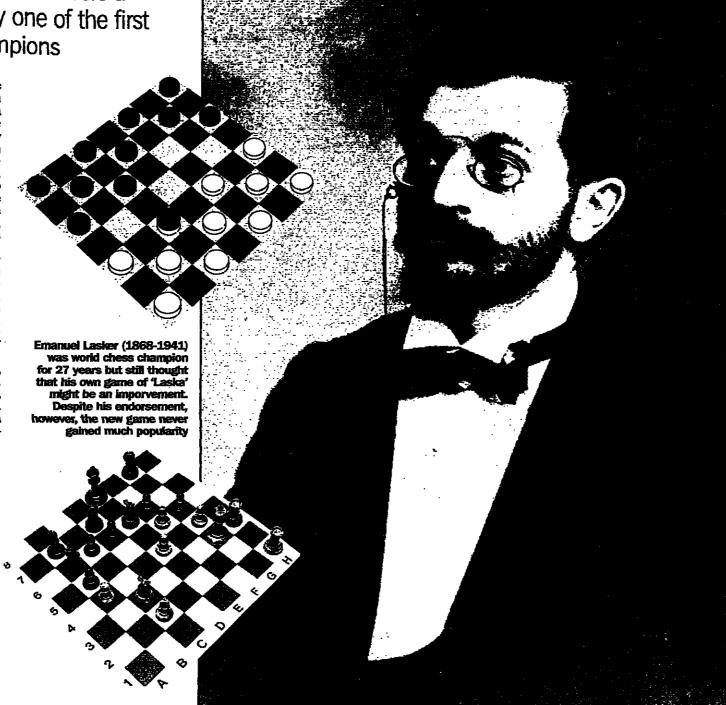
manuel Lasker was the world chess champion from 1894 until 1921 - a longer reign than anyone else. He also added to the theory of mathematics, wrote treatises on philosophy, and was a very fine bridge player. Despite all that, however, he still felt the need to invent a game of his own, a game that did not suffer from the same infuriating intractability as chess, or the element of luck that bedevils all card games.

So Lasker invented Laska (or Lasca, or Laskers, as later versions of the same game came to be known). For the rules that follow, and a good deal of the rest of the information in this piece, we are grateful to our reader Stanley Daniels, who put us on the trail of this forgotten game.

The game is similar to draughts. played on a seven-by-seven board. Each player starts with 11 men, placed on his back three ranks. Moves and capturing are just as in draughts, with one crucial exception: when a man is captured, it is not removed from the board, but placed underneath the man that captured it.

In the position illustrated, White has made his first move into the board's centre square and Black has captured it, resulting in a two-storey piece with the white man below the black one. White now recaptures, with one of his two men placed to do so, jumping over the double-decker and removing its top layer only, which will then reside beneath the capturing man, leaving a single black piece on the square formerly occupied by the doubledecker. If a two-tier piece makes a capture, it will grow another level.

Piles may grow in size as the game proceeds, but in every case are under the control of the player whose colour is on top. You win the game when you control all the piles. As in normal draughts, you must make a capture if one is possible. Also as in draughts, a piece promotes to a king if it reaches the other side. You then need some way to mark it, because it will remain a king for the rest of the game, even if subsequently sub-



power of any pile of pieces, how-position. As a simple example, wards over the same piece, lopping ever (ie whether it moves as a king or an ordinary man) is determined by the status of the piece on top.

And that's about all there is to it. Whereas in chess and normal draughts, the position tends to become simpler and more technical as captures limit the number of pieces on the board, nothing ever leaves the playing area in Laska, and every capture is liable merged beneath other pieces. The to increase the complexity of the cannot hop backwards and for-

a series of captures of several single pieces by one white piece. This will leave a pile in White's control, but a black monster with many lives lurks beneath it. One

White can claim it as his own.

consider the pile that results from off layer after layer in a single

After its invention in 1911, the game of Laska was played by several notable chess masters including its inventor's namesake. capture of the pile will leave a piece Edward Lasker, and the great Gerin Black's control that needs to be man world title challenger Dr Siegcaptured several times before bery Tarrasch. All seem to have received it favourably, but some-(And before you ask, no, a king how the game never caught on. The games historian David lost game.

Pritchard tells us that Lasca (with a "c") was first marketed by CET. & Co shortly after its invention, and a patent applied for. It was described as a "great military game - a game to teach cautiousness and tactics". There is evidence of only one "Laska Association", a shortlived organisation at Clare College, Cambridge in the Seventies.

We shall be grateful for any further information or sightings of this

#### Games people play without hesitation, repetition or deviation by Pandora Melly

Ian Messiter, 77, inventor of 'Just a Minute', 'Many a Slip' and other games

Games come to me quite easily compared with other things. I can always invent a game if I have to. Just a Minute began at school in an English lesson. The master

pointed at me and said:
"Messiter, stand up. Tell me what I've been saying for the last minute." Then he whacked me. I thought at the time that it would make a good game - all the awful things in my life have been turned

Games are only as good as the people who play them. The funniest person I ever had on the panel was an actress called Margo Holden. She had a voice like an eight-year-old child and she never knew what she was talking about. I'd say: "You were very funny this evening," and she'd say: "Oh, was I? I'm sorry.

On Many a Slip, the chairman would read out paragraphs with factual, historical or grammatical errors, and the team would buzz if they thought they'd heard a

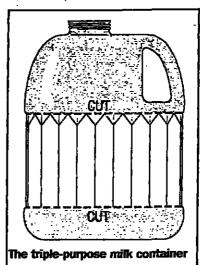
My fascination with language must have come from my father. He was a great one for absolute clarity, and he wouldn't let me use a word that was wrong or out

of context. Oddly enough, I didn't have a favourite game when I was little. Happy Families was the only thing I played. I'm not a competitive person, but competitiveness can be a good thing if you've got a humorous team who take it seriously. Taking part is more important, though I've noticed that people do like

The elements of a good game are that it should be friendly and fun. It needs to be fairly clever. If it's stupid, people won't bother with it. Also it should contain information that they didn't know ... before. That's about all. And no. rude words.

'Just a Minute' (speak for a minute 🧖 on a given topic without deviation hesitation, repetition, saying Tor using one of the prohibited words) will be in the shops next month. Made by Paul Lamond Games, price: £14.99-£15.99.

#### Don't junk it ... use it More readers' ideas creatively recycled



This week, another instalment of readers' own uses for things. that might otherwise have been thrown away. The illustration shows three ideas of Mrs C Thomas of Worthing, West Sussex. Starting with a four-pint milk container, you slice off the top for use, with the lid off, as a funnel, or with the lid on as a ... scoop for pet food or seed

compost.

Meanwhile, the bottom section makes a dish for soap or Brillo pads, and can even be . used as a pastry cutter for jam: turnovers or small Cornish 2002 pasties. Finally, the middle part: may be cut into strips with pointed ends, to be used as seed tray markers. Or, says Mrs Thomas, you can leave it intact

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to be used as a cuff to protect small garden plants. Following our earlier ideas for things to do with beer cans. Mike Mitchell of Manchester offers some recycling for those who prefer the bottled variety: "Drink 200 bottles of your favourite beer or soft drink.": he begins. You then nail the metal bottle-caps upside down in neat lines to a rectangular piece of wood about a foot square and an inch thick. Place outside kitchen door as an effective mud-scraper. Hose down occasionally to clean off the mud.

Finally, a decorative idea from Ms Lee Campion: "When Dad is doing his carpentry, that nice little pile of sawdust can be recycled. Just mix it with paste, then roll one teaspoonful into a ball. Pierce the ball 🤌 with a matchstick, then let it dry. Rub over with sandpaper. Brush with: paste sealer. Dry. Coat with gesso (available from an art shop).

"Now paint it any colour you like, make a dozen more, thread them all on to a leather thong and you have a prizewinning do-it-yourself 📉 🗱 🙉 🖟 necklace." And Ms Campion really did win a prize for such a concocion

Bawn O'Beirne-Ranelagh

Last week on this page we gave an incorrect telephone number for SFC Press, the publishers of Games Games Games magazine and "Ludography", the annual review of new games. Their correct details, are as follows: SFC Press, 42 Wynndale Road, London E18 1DX: (0181-491-7784).

The games page is edited by William Hartston

#### Held over from last week – apologies for any inconvenience caused

This is the tailpiece from last week's discussion of *The Bible* Code, a new book cracking codes allegedly hidden in the Bible. We had explained how you scarcely needed to venture further than the first verse of Genesis for an exact prediction of New Labour's majority. Now read on:

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. The first word, "In" has 2

letters. The first two words have a combined 2+3 = 5 letters. indicates that we must start

The third word, "beginning", counting again: "beginning" has "God" is word number 4, so we go forth and multiply 4 by the number of letters in the fifth word: 4x7 = 28.

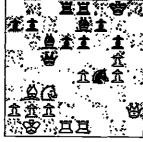
The next two words "the" and "heaven" have 3 and 6 letters respectively. The previous word, "created", indicates that we must find a new way of "creating" 3x6. which is clearly 2x9, hence 29. Finally, the last three words "and the earth" have 3, 3 and 5 letters; 3x3x5 = 45.

So the total prediction of the first verse of the Bible leads to the numbers 2, 5, 9, 28, 29, 45 which are precisely the winning numbers in last week's lottery.

We are sorry that for reasons of space we were unable to publish this information last Saturday and hope that it did not cause any inconvenience.

The winning numbers this week may, of course, be found in a similar fashion. We leave the details to you.

#### Chess William Hartston



When working out a possible attacking combination, for yourself or your opponent, checks, heavy threats and captures are not so difficult to take into account. It is the insidious moves in between that need looking for.

In today's game from the Russian championship, Black accepted a piece sacrifice with the intention of returning the material to secure a comfortable game. In the diagram position, he had just captured a pawn on f4 with his knight and must have been expecting either Qxf4 Qxg5 or Rh1 Qe5. White's reply threw a huge spanner in the works. Can

you find it? Here are the full moves of the game. White's idea of meeting ...h6 with h4. offering the bishop in order to open the h-file, is very old, though not often seen after White has moved his rook away from h1. Instead of taking the bait with 17...Nh5 and 18...hxg5, Black should have played 17...Kh8 - as he would surely have done if he had seen 21.Nd5! in time. By

No.3319 Saturday 7 June interfering with the black

queen's path to e5, the move hugely increases the strength of the threat of Rh1. After 21...exd5 22.Rh1 Black had to give back one of his extra pieces, but his king was left so open that the white attack almost played itself. It just needed one more good move to expose how precarious Black's game really was. After 26.Qf4! White had

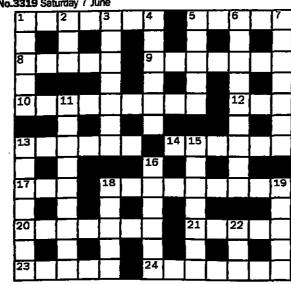
planned to meet 26...fxg6 with 27.Rhe1! when Rde8 loses to Rxe7+ and Qf6+. With 26...Kxg6 losing the bishop to Qe4+, he was left with the desperate-looking 26...f5, which gave White the time to get his queen and rook in the right order on the h-file. The final king hunt led to White regaining all his sacrificed material with interest.

White: S Dvoiris Black: A Khalifman 20 g4 Nxf4 1 e4 c5 21 Nd5 exd5

2 N£3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 22 Rh1 Nh5 4 Nxd4 Nf6 23 gxh5 Kg7 24 exd5 Bd7 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Bg5 e6 7 Qd2 Be7 25 hag5 Rh8 26 Qf4 f5 8 0-0-0 Nxd4 27 Rh6 Rdc8 9 Qxd4 0-0 28 Qh2 Bxg5 29 Rh7+ Rxh7 10 f4 Qa5 11 Bc4 Bd7 30 Oxh7+ Kf6 31 Qf7+ Ke5 12 Bb3 Bc6 13 Rhel Rfe8 32 Oxd7 Re7 14 Kb1 Rad8 33 Re1+ Kf4 34 Rf1+ Kg3 15 Q£2 b6 35 Qxf5 Qe3 16 h4 Qc5 17 Og3 Nh5 36 a3 Re5 18 Qh2 hxg5 37 Qi8 resi

19 hxg5 g6

#### **Concise** crossword



#### **ACROSS**

Supernatural beings (7) Whip marks (5) Bring to bear (5) Attribute (7) 10 Bring into agreement (9) 12 Eggs (3) 13 Calls on (6) 14 Contract (6) 17 High ball (3)

18 Trite (9) 20 Large tent (7) 21 Up to the time that (5) 23 Fashion (5) 24 Intrinsic quality (7)

37 Qf8 resigns

#### DOWN

New (5) Cold sweet (3) Entrance hymn (7) Spangle (6) Move to and fro (5) Enmity (9) Songhird (7) Soft fruit (9) 13 Books (7) 15 Distinctions (7)

22 Metallic element (3)

16 Plan (6)

18 Accomu 19 Dig (5)

#### Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Weigh, 4 Airhead (Way ahead), 8 Antenna, 9 Mourn, 10 Paena, 11 Kingdom, 13 Read, 15 Revide, 17 Laurel, 31 Reed, 22 Old beys, 23 Flora, 3n Licit, 27 Imbites, 28 Portend, 29 Easten, DOWN: 1 Wrapper, 2 Intro, 3 Hamsard, 4 Alaska, 5 Roman, 6 Eernady, 7 Denim, 12 Idle, 14 Eery, 16 Sidecar, 18 Affable, 19 Liaison, 21 Espeed, 22 Ordip, 23 Ordip, 25 Orbit.

#### **Bridge** Alan Hiron

Love all; dealer South

♠ 10 8 5 ⊽K8 East **4962** ♥AJ 104 ♥O952 O 108 Q765 **♣Q** 10 8 7 4 **♣**A K 2 South **♦**AKQJ3 **7763** ♦Q42

"I know that I could have beaten ◆S if I had led a heart," said West at the end of this deal. "But wasn't there a case for you playing back ♣2 at trick two? Then I can win and push a heart

through." "I would look really foolish if declarer turned up with the queen," replied East, and there the matter rested. Any thoughts?

lead with #Q, would easily

#### **Perplexity** Mixed doubles:

Real tremor toying tit bag chimera.

The above sentence hides three connected one-word answers. To find them, you must group the six words into three pairs, then rearrange the letters within each pair. A prize of the Chambers 21st Dictionary will be awarded to the sender of the first correct answer we open on 19 June. Answers to: Perplexity. The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

led the queen and the jack respectively from the first two, so the lead strongly suggests that he does indeed hold the queen.

South opened 14, North

his spades rather than offer

partner!") North raised to 34

escaped criticism. West led #7,

East won with \$\,\phi\, cashed the

ace, and led a third club. South

West was right: there was a

good case for East returning \$2

at the trick two. If West's lead is a true fourth highest, he began

with  $+Q_J.8.7.(x)$ , +J.10.8.7.(x)

or \$Q.10,8,7,(x). Against a suit

contract, he would surely have

ruffed, drew trumps, and lost only a heart at the end.

and South went on to game.

although a pass would have

support ("100 for honours,

responded 20, and South rebid

So there was no real danger of South winning an undeserved trick with the queen. West, on realise what was expected of him.

#### 17 May answers:

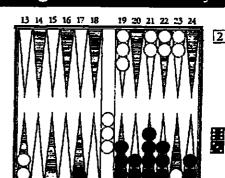
 $\mathbf{x} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}$  $x \quad x \quad x \quad x \quad x$  $\mathbf{x} \quad \mathbf{x} \quad \mathbf{x} \quad \mathbf{x}$  $\mathbf{x} \mathbf{x} \mathbf{x}$ 

Mansfield Park, Jane Austen Winner: Betty Mann (S Harrow)

Last week's puzzle ... ... was more difficult than some of you thought.

The object is to fit the numbers I to 19 into the hexagonal array so that every line parallel to any

side adds to the same sum. That's six lines each of 3 and 4 numbers and three of five. Entries still open until 12 June.



I was happily playing a quick game against Jellyfish the other evening. For once I had the better of the silicon coelenterate and was on my way to a gammon I rolled 6-3, quickly played 8/5, 6/off and was stunned when it beeped to tell me there was a better move!

"What do you mean, a better move?", I enquired. "Quite so, my dear chap", it replied. "Have you considered the advantages of playing 8/2*, 5/2?" "How can I consider the advantages of a move I.

haven't even seen?". "As a mortal you have, as is usual with your species." played the first move that entered your head." "I am doing my best to make sure that I always consider at least two moves on any play." I replied somewhat huffily. "In this case, I didn't see the play because it didn't fit my model of the game. Leaving 1

shot for no purpose - how can that possibly he right? The advantages become apparent with a little. thought. As you are not blessed with a neural net for a brain, I suppose I must explain. Most important, I will never be able to make your 2-point. With your move I will gain a lot of equity whenever I manage 10 anchor on your 2-point and win quite a few games by hitting a late shot. Secondly, I will have four men onthe bar as opposed to three with your play, and consequently you will win more backgammons.

"But what if you throw a five?". You humans would fear your own shadows. You will have one man to bring in against a four-point board while I still have to enter three men against a

five-point board: you are still a massive favourite". OK, I'm convinced - I made a mistake.' "Indeed you did, now how about another few games at, shall we say, £50 per point?"

For the weather, traffic reports, the sky at night, and Damien

**Backgammon** Chris Bray

#### John Walsh

#### meets **Jerry Lewis**

amn Yankees opened at the Adelphi two nights ago. Forty-two years after its first appearance on Broadway. the Faustian-baseball musical picked up the kind of rave reviews ("Indecently entertaining" - Telegraph, "The ones are a joy for ever" - Daily Mail) you'd thought were the exclusive property of Guys and Dolls. London audiences are being weirdly entranced by Fifties American vaudeville at the moment - and so is America: Damn Yankees has been on the road since February 1995, playing in 50-odd cities from Chicago to Fort Lauderdale and raking in \$47million (so far). London is their 57th venue. The travelling circus of 65, including musicians, sound men, lighting crew and the 23strong cast, are committed to taking their jolly tale of the Devil, the baseball nut and Lola the stripper all over the world. After London, they've got Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan...

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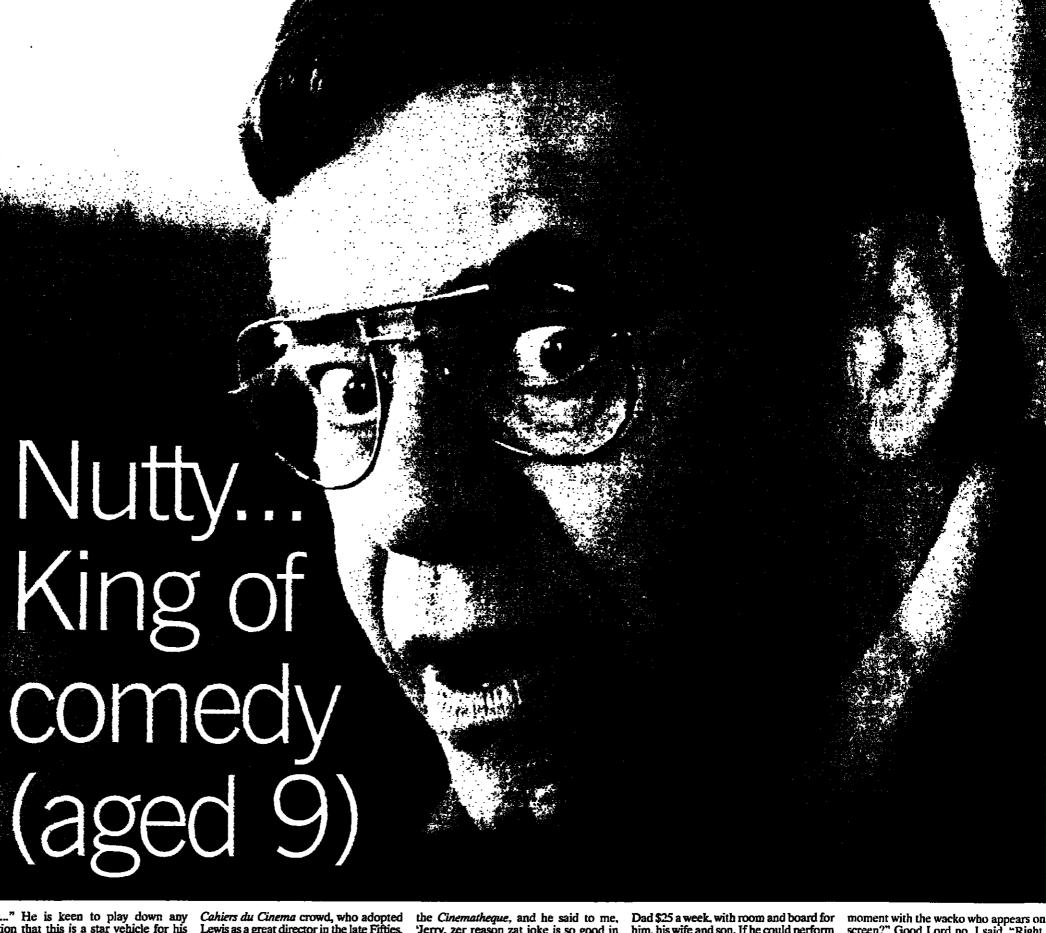
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In the middle of this Tin Pan Alley juggernaut, this kinetic ironclad extravaganza, this rumbling, crowd-pleasing caravanserai is Jerry Lewis, about whom the reviews were guarded. They all praised his ectacular 15-minute stand-up routine in the second half, but otherwise tended to voice the same fear: "Lewis appears to be cruising on reputation alone" (Telegraph); "the smugness of a star smoothly coasting on his legend" (Independent). And you think: what legend? What reputation? For Jerry Lewis is one of the classic incarnations of the performer who lost the plot - the screwball who went out of fashion like that in the Sixties as if coshed by fate, the comedian whom nobody found funny

any more, apart from a lot of grim French intellectuals. He was the clown with the crossed eyed, gurning features, rolling tongue and spasmoid limbs, who dwelt wholly, it seemed, in the realm of slapstick, double-take and pratfall when not drooling over girls and waxing sentimental over small children. The Bell Boy, The Ladies' Man, The Nutty Professor, Which In to the Front - he was nothing if not prolific (as actor, writer and director); but his prolificity, his exuberance, his infantilism just stopped communicating with critics, backers, audiences. He had a comeback when Martin Scorcese cast him, in The King of Comedy, as Langford, an ageing comedian with a cold heart. Lewis radiated such contempt for the film's demented, emulatory fans (played by Robert de Niro and Sandra Bernhardt), it felt as if years of neglect and bitterness were being exorcised. But when you meet him in the flesh you realise that there's a lot still there.

He's a very furious man. Chunky of torso, pouchy of cheek and curiously simian in posture, he regards you from under alarmingly hooded eyelids as if he hates you and everything you stand for. In between sentences, the lower plate of his dentures detaches itself from its moorings and wanders around his mouth. He alternates a look of fathomless disgust with an expression of bafflement, as if you are making no sense. He talks in long, growly, explanatory sentences like a man who isn't used to being interrupted.

"Yeah, it's the first time I've ever been an actor playing a part on a stage, although - of course - I've been in front of live audiences all my life. But it's totally different in theatre. I never realised that the audience hears and feels the relationship we have on stage. They don't turn to each other and say, 'They're having a wonderful time up there' - but they feel it. And at the end this very proper audience, they lose their proper, and they're screaming and stamping and applaud-



ing..." He is keen to play down any notion that this is a star vehicle for his screwball self. "I will not go for a cheap joke. The integrity of this play is very important to me. If Jerry sneaks in somewhere, it's only in places where it doesn't encumber the plot." Encumber? "It's a very important word, when you're dealing with 30 other people on stage at the same time. There's moments when you feel that little nerve button and think, Oh performers out there. We have a play to tell and music to sing. I'm the only one who knows what discipline it takes ... "

We talked about vaudeville, and the extremely dead concept of the all-round "entertainer" who could sing, dance, tell iokes and perform in the exhaustingly hyperactive style of Al Jolson and Danny Kaye. "You'll probably hate this, because he's home-grown," said Lewis, "but Tony Newley is the greatest vaudevillean that ever lived. He's a great performer, a great entertainer. But he was looked down on by many of his audiences because he was so goddam cocksure of how good he was. They would have liked him to be a little more humble about it. Lewis's interest in Newley has a distinct element of self-identification about it. "I thought he had this marvellous ... esteem for himself. Jesus Christ, most people love to see someone enjoy what they do. But there's something about the home-grown that changes that concept. We have it in America. I am more appreciated in foreign countries by the critics..." Spotting that he was in danger of saying that his home audience didn't care for him, he abruptly changed tack: "...but when it comes to audiences, er, American audiences have been awfully good to me. I've been in front of them for 65 years. The Press have always asked, 'How do you feel when you go to France and Germany and Italy and they carry on the way they do. I say, They do the same thing in the United States. It's only the critics in the US who think I should be put to sleep. The critics in Europe think what I do is genius."

Lewis as a great director in the late Fifties. Other directors revere him. Sometimes they offer him advice. "I was in Paris once, rehearsing for the opening night at the Olympia. I was singing 'Rock-a-Bye Baby' and someone had suggested singing the second chorus in French, so I was trying it. Jean-Luc Godard had been spending the day with me. He called me over and said [adopts thick Clouseau accent]: 'Are Christ I could go for that. But I got other you kray-zeee? To seeng in Fraynch? You stupide bastarde, zey will keel you.' When more. It's their culture. They need defihe said that, a light went on in my nitions. They need to know intentions.

geously big statements. "Lewis should be examined and praised as a film-maker who made five or six brilliant movies," wrote Bertrand Tavernier in the Guardian last year. Many stories are told of the chronic mis-match between Lewis's more pretentious fans and Lewis's own unpretentious deflations. Such as the symposium in Paris when he was congratulated by a voluble cinéaste for his visual jokes with fat ladies in The Bellboy. Not only is it a trenchant satire on Western, consumerism, said the fan, it's also a swingeing attack on American matriarchy and the ethos of... "Fat women walk funny," Lewis replied shortly. "That's the point." Did he marvel at such pretentiousness? "Everybody's seen the same things the French have seen," he said. But the French convolute it. I was sitting there one

'Jerry, zer reason zat joke is so good in that feelm is that, when you were zmall, your muzzer must 'ave...' and I said stop, Francois, just stop it. My mother did shit. I just wrote a great visual joke and shot it. Where did it come from? I don't know, but I doubt it was her womb." Lewis's whole body shook, somewhere between irritation and laughter. "Tve been arguing with them for 40 years," he concludes wearily. "They always need to understand head..." More often they make outra- They want to know where it comes from.

Left: Jerry Lewis with Dean Martin

#### What I do and have always done is have a wonderful time not allowing the child in me to die. I'm nine. I'll always be nine 7

It comes from simple. Simple is magic. Simple is wonderful."

Lewis himself comes from New Jersey, where he was born Joseph Levitch in 1926. His parents were entertainers on the "Borscht Belt" (named for the number of East European émigrés) in the Catskill Mountains. Lewis speaks of his parents with the slightly hysterical enthusiasm of a hero-worshipping son who didn't get to know his parents well. "My Dad was incredible. I was sitting in front of the stalls every night. He was Jolson, he was Eddie Cantor, he was everyone rolled in one. The funniest man I've even seen in my life. And the handsomest. And he sang better and danced better and mimed better... He did it all." His mother was piano accompanist, arranger and musical director to her husband. They were a per-They do indeed. And it's not just the night with Francois Truffaut, in front of forming family. "One hotel would pay my you think you're sitting at this very

him, his wife and son. If he could perform in another hotel after the show, he'd get another \$8, \$2 for my mother and \$3 for the kid. It was \$13 gig down the road twice a week. So at the age of five, they put me in a tux. How can you fail? A five-yearold in a tux?" Lewis's career famously began at this tender age, singing "Buddy Can You Spare a Dime" for the supper crowd, but he also remembers it as the start of his comedy career. "I don't recall singing the number, but I recall taking a bow, because my foot went off the stage and into the footlights and the bulb broke. I was scared, but it was the first laugh I ever got from an audience."

A pratfall might be written off by some as an accident. It became Jerry Lewis's life. "My mom had four sisters, and my dad had two sisters, and all of them thought they had created some kind of a nerd that needed a keeper," he recalls. Because I had the desire to do the silliest things to make other people laugh. Whether I needed the attention, because my mom and dad were always away from me, or I was covering up the fact that I had a hole in my sock and didn't want them to see, I don't know. You can psychoanalyse the why of what you do. But I do to this day get the greatest joy out of watching someone smile or doing something as silly as you please to give them a laugh.

One of Lewis's more emetic refrains is about the child inside him. "What I do and have always done," he says, "is have a wonderful time not allowing the child in me to die. I'm nine. I'll always be nine..." Since he himself is now 71, and since he has been responsible for making several films as auteur complet - having complete control over every aspect of the production - it's hard to reconcile the control-freak in his nature with the hyperadrenalinated kid in front of the camera. Was he actually two people?

"It's a very important question," he concedes, "though it has nothing to do with schizophrenia. Let me ask you: Do

screen?" Good Lord no, I said. "Right. You're not. You're sitting with the guy who writes for him, the guy who cares for him and who must protect his best interests. I can't allow him to get any older than nine; he'd only encumber my work. When I make a film, I have to make everyone understand that we must keep him out of it and build a solid foundation so that, when we let him loose, everything will be perfect. He knows he can't fuck with the intellect of the guy who writes the stuff. He knows that I need him not to get involved in that. I need him just to come and play and get as silly as he can in what we have structured." Noticing that, by this time, I was considering making a dash for the door, he added: "Some people think you're fuckin' insane and say, 'How can you do that?' But it's really very easy."

Listening to Lewis talking about his screen persona as some demented (and imprisoned) kid brother, you realise what it is about this talented and vigorous man that's so hard to love: it's his brand of sentimental bullying, that makes too many demands on human sympathy. It's of a piece with his confession about comedy: "It's the most selfless act in the eyes of the laugher, but it's the most selfish act in the eyes of the guy who's doing it." Lewis has always been a manipulator of laughter rather than a charmer, a man who'd rather belabour you with a club than tickle your fancy. One thinks how relieved the film world was when his last directorial project collapsed from lack of finance - The Day the Clown Cried, about a clown striking up a friendship with children in Auschwitz. And though his influence is still strong (Jim Carrey in Liar Liar is one natural descendant, as was Steve Martin's funny walk in All of Me; Lewis was executive producer of Eddie Murphy's remake of The Nutty Professor) it's easy to think he's in the safest possible billet between now and the new Millennium - acting a role in a play, with just a single burst of "Jerry Lewis" a night, a brilliant 15-minute "letting out" of his crazed, manipulative alter ego.

#### Rock concerts that drive a lad insane

rown men and grown women cried this week at David Bowie's semi-private gig at the ill-named Hanover Grand in London. Seven hundred If us, packed into a tiny room, certs everywhere. Queue in the experienced the rare pleasure of street even though you have tickhaving a genuine superstar within spitting distance. When Bowie came on and went straight into "Quicksand" - yes you do know it, the one on Hunky Dory with eat your heart out Spice Girls lyrics like I'm tethered to the logic of homo sapiens" - everyone began a highly esoteric sing-along and

tears flowed. Maybe a few were tears of pain. My left leg could not share in the undoubted delights of "Jean Genie" and "Queen Bitch" or even the arguable delights of the new stuff because it had cramp. Even the illicit thrills of a secret gig last detail; usually when booking last detail; usually when booking old enough to remember Ziggy over rock fans are treated at rock con-

have opened half an hour ago, stand sardine-style in sweltering conditions for an hour watching roadies touch amplifiers and gaze intently at wires - I mean what do they actually do that couldn't have been done during the afternoon then have to leave early because the concert actually ends an hour after the last train.

the rules of other art forms. Start- a decent, comfortable, acoustiing times printed on tickets are a cally good rock venue in the counjoke; supposedly spontaneous try, one that can allow those who encores are planned down to the want to stand to stand, and those





And this was one of in, and worst of all there's barely exception, managing to fulfil most fans, so why not a national venue of those criteria.

arts award not yet considered by for the big gigs and studio spaces the national lottery is for money for a national rock venue. We lead the world in rock music, it now his fans? I know it's unspeakably loved London Coliseum.

And this was one of the good or even part of the arena you are Bush Empire in London is a rare attracts at least two generations of

on the lines of some theatres, It is astonishing that the one which would have a main house for the smaller concerts and David Bowie's post- birthday bashes for

concerts you're uncomfortable and can't actually see or hear very well, but next time take a look around you.

The English National Opera usuto launch the programme for its new season. But this year there was nothing. The programme was simply slipped out under plain worried by the prospect of a few money to move out of the much-

As it happens, the forthcoming season is one that the ENO can actually crow about. Not only is the company welcoming back several old stars, it is also welcoming unhip to admit that at most rock several new directors including the talented theatre director Jude Kelly directing her first opera, Donizetti's The Elixir of Love. And at the expressions on the faces it is actually reducing seat prices in the stalls and the balcony. Mr Marks should be less sensitive. There are a lot of good things hapally has a large press conference pening at the Coliseum. It's just a pity he's determined to leave it.

Bob Dylan is out of hospital and even promising a new album this wrapper this week. Surely the autumn. Now that he has introgenially combative Dennis Marks, duced the world to his rare disease. ENO's general director, wasn't histoplasmosis, I suggest this be the title of the new album. The awkward questions on such word has a certain ring to it, and prickly subjects as using lottery with Dylan's elongated nasal vowels could take on cataclysmic qualities as the title-track.

Serena Mackesy's dangerous night out with the king of vodka; Jasper Rees on TV; Robert Hanks on Radio TURN TO PAGE

## arts & books

# All played out in black and white

Have they got the one? Effortful expressions from six hopeful entrants in the 10th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, climaxing tomorrow in Fort Worth, Texas

usic and sport: brain versus brawn? Not really: the old contrast is blurring, nowhere more than at the piano. It's partly to do with spiralling keyboard athletics, but mostly thanks to competitions, which blend beauty contest and prize fight with the exhibaration of the Derby. And competitions are proliferating like mad: there was one in Meknes last year, there's one in Macao next month, and there are over 100 regular jousts in Europe alone. Ever since Mozart trounced Clementi, and Beethoven drove his chief rival howling from the room, joust has been the mot juste for this unforgiving aesthetic combat.

This week the jousting has been in Fort Worth, the Texas cow-town which, every four years, hosts the glitziest piano competition of them all. When the young winner of the Van Cliburn is announced tomorrow, he - I don't think the solitary she in the final has the ghost of a chance - will walk off with a cash prize of \$20,000, plus a two-year concert programme worth all the money in the world to anyone playing this desperately overcrowded game. The attendant media circus may be small by Olympic standards, but it has Olympic intensity, with live television and radio coverage, documentaries galore, chance for some competitively showy Southern hosand a press corps chasing every scrap of gossip pianistic or personal – like a plague of locusts.

The competitors have made their job easy, coming fully equipped with colourful backgrounds, offbeat hobbies and weird superstitions. The Israeli favourite sits on a shekel when he competes; one of the Russians makes sure his wife is holding a lucky troll while he plays. Two of the Russian contestants are married to one another, and even chose to play the same piece; the fact that the husband got knocked out in the first round, while the wife has made it to the final, has generated miles

Thirty-five entered, only one can win. The prize: \$20,000 and two years' worth of concerts. Michael Church reports from Texas on the 10th Van Cliburn International

of breathless, Hello-style copy, hardly hampered by their willingness to indulge in photogenic clinches at the merest flash of a camera.

But the press also needs tears, and tears it has got. Stanislav Ioudenitch, from Tashkent, played a sensational first round and was tipped to win. He then poured boiling water over his left hand while trying to make tea at six in the morning, and is now out of the race: Freudian slips seldom come this glaring. Ioudenitch is studying in Italy, has not seen his haby daughter for a year, and is unable to contact his phoneless wife in Moscow. He seems astonishingly cheerful nevertheless, and has become the good cause of the week; everyone wants to help him.

In Fort Worth, that "everyone" means hundreds of housewives, teachers and bankers who give their services free to make the competition run smoothly; it means the "host moms" who harbour the contestants; it also means scores of seriously rich patrons, for whom this quadrennial bash offers a pitality. I went to a "lake-party" at a sleepy hamlet called Dosier Cove: the invitation said "casual", but Tve seldom seen such a riot of chiffon silk and heavy jewellery. The principal guest came in his helicopter. Van Cliburn himself, immaculate in DJ - he never wears anything else - and holding court like a nabob.

Van - a usefully resonant Christian name - neither created this competition, nor has any hand in running it, but he is in every sense its presiding genius. It was set up in his honour when he astounded the world by winning the inaugural Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow in 1958. The jobs in an over-saturated market - what we do is

Russians took this lanky Baptist boy to their hearts: not so heinous." The Cliburn, he argues, is a nec-New York gave him a ticker-tape welcome home. He went on to pioneer the cultural-diplomacy game. playing for presidents and foreign heads of state, and was by any standards - the live recordings prove it - a magnificent exponent of the Romantic repertoire. In his forties, he suddenly quit for what he describes as a "sabbatical" and, though he still does occasional concerts, he's now a semi-recluse, sharing his mansion with six Steinways, a Bechstein, a dog, and the ghost of his adored mother Rildia Bee, who taught him piano from the age of three, dominated his life, and died three years ago, aged 97.

For all its razzmatazz, the Cliburn doesn't have a great record for spotting talent: with the exception of Radu Lupu, Cristina Ortiz and Barry Douglas, most of the starry names that grace its lists had already been spotted elsewhere. And some of its prize-winners have turned into prize embarrassments. At this year's opening bash, Alexei Sultanov - gold medallist two competitions ago - lurched to the microphone and declared that the world contained just three "supreme beings": Van Cliburn, Horowitz, and himself. The mike was wrenched away, but he lurched after it and continued in similarly drunken vein. "The trouble with some of these Russians," a jury member confided to me, "is that they can't handle success."

Musicians shouldn't have to compete," says Richard Rodzinski, the Clibum Competition director. "But since competition is part of their lives from music school, to getting jobs, to keeping those

essary showcase for young pianists, and a way of finding those with the stamina to succeed. Competitions, he adds, are starting to replace straight recitals - "with the extra element of suspense". And he's downplaying the notion of rank by talking of a Cliburn "festival": playing here, he says, is a lot less stressful than playing at Carnegie Hall.

But stress there certainly is, as Louise Canafax, the "backstage mom", confirms. She sits in the wings with her armoury of bandages, antibiotics. nail-clippers, and headache pills, plus honey and sugar for energy, and dispenses a graciously Southern brand of stress-therapy. Do people ever

get out of control?
"Well, one girl wasn't happy with her performance, and left the stage in the middle of a piece." Did she finally continue? "We had a little difficulty getting her back on. And when she'd finished, the jury said it might have been better if she hadn't." Where, I enquire, is that girl now? "I'd rather not

say." Sounds like we're getting into grim stuff here. As one watches the semi-finalists going through their paces, one realises how gruelling it is: a fullscale chamber work; a 75-minute recital performed without a break; and two concertos on the trot for the final. What are the jury looking for? "The important artist, who can look into a score and find things we have not heard before," says Menahem Pressler. one of the world's most eminent chamber musicians. 'Have we got the one." That is always our question. We didn't find him last time around."

A solo recital may lay talent bare, but what can

we learn from a concerto? Ian Hobson, the only Brit on the jury, says the main thing a concerto reveals is negative. "With so much riding on it, and an orchestra to dominate, can you avert disaster?"

So have we got the one? I've seen an exquisitely talented musician crash in flames when nerves cut to her, and I've heard nine young players was would not be out of place at the Wigmore Hall. This year's crop were selected from live auditions held all round the globe, and the standard is unusually high. Like other observers, I was shocked that the finalists did not include a marvellous young Russian called Viktor Chestopal. I was also shocked that they did, on the other hand, include Miss Skanavi, whose playing - let's be honest - is less distinguished than her looks.

I don't think Jon Nakamatsu (America's last hope) or Italy's Filippo Gamba - who looks like Brahms, and plays Brahms as though he'd composed the music himself - will win, but three other finalists would each make an exhilarating choice. Jan Gottlieb Jiracek is a German crowd-puller who can produce both wizardry and true musical wisdom. Aviram Reichert, a debonair Israeli with a passion for Formula One, is an impeccable classicist in the grand tradition. And Yakov Kaşman from Moscow is a keyboard magician whose Haydn, Schumann, and Prokofiev are alike n terly. He's an untamed outsider, a born showman with a furious will to win - and, if he does so, fireworks are guaranteed. If I had a vote, he'd get it

Van Cliburn Competition website: http://www clibum.com or http://www.audionet.com Van Cliburn in Moscow, live recordings of Rachmaninov's Paganini Rhapsody and Brahms's Plane Concerto No 2 is on RC4 Victor Red Seal (0902)

David Benedict **WEEK IN REVIEW** 



THE BALLET

Swan Lake



Crash

JG Ballard's 1973 updating of the

Unger star.

timeless connection between sex and

David "Dead Ringers, Naked Lunch"

Adam Mars-Jones felt it fall short of

ambitions one respects, but whose

expectations. "A remarkably uninvolving experience." "A cerebral film whose

death brought notoriously to the screen by

Cronenberg. James Spader and Deborah

Damn Yankees

Paul Taylor declared "Damn Yankees is

damn good." "This exuberant revival

success ... A triumph of energy," applauded the FT. "Fails to honour the

dark side of the show ... but the songs

of Adler and Ross are a joy," said The

Mail. "That rare thing, a musical with

both good tunes and a decent plot ...

focus," observed the Standard. "This

the audience back to a happier, more

innocent and possibly wiser age," thrilled The Daily Telegraph. "A good

example of the middle-ranking, mid-

Fifties American musical: not wildly

exciting but harmlessly pleasant,

claimed The Guardian. "It's

irresistible," raved The Times.

ludicrously enjoyable revival transports

it's strong on team spirit but lacks

proves you can dance your way to

GERAINT LEWIS

Jack O'Brien directs the Broadway revival of the classic Fifties musical, book by George Abbott, score by Adler and Ross, in which small-tow Joe sells his soul to the devil (Jerry Lewis1 in return for becoming a hero who bats his local baseball team to

Derek Deane choreographs the world's favourite ballet at the Royal Albert Hall, in the round, complete with 60 swans. Patrick Woodroffe provides this ENB production with a carpet of dry ice. The Kirov's Altynai Asylmuratova dances Odette opposite Roberto Bolle's

Louise Levene was thoroughly charmed. "At the climax to the ballroom pas de deux a shudder of triumph ran across her (Altynai's) torso and a thrill of pleasure ran through the audience." "Who could resist the message of a stage full of beautiful people dancing their hearts

out?" wondered The Mail. The Telegraph, for one. Its critic sneered: "If ballet has to sell its masterpieces down the river like this to get a new audience, is that audience, frankly, worth having?" "It works so well that we seem to be seeing Swan Lake with fresh eyes," disagreed its sister paper, The Sunday Telegraph. "Act II's white pas de deux is almost invisible amid the clutter of swans," worried The Times.

Adelphi Theatre, London WC2. Booking: 0171-344 0055

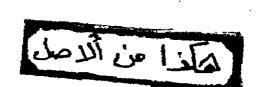
There's more life in this The ENB'S Swan Lake boisterous, high-spirited reminds us there's more show than the whole of to this ballet than white Beauty and the Beast. tutus and dry ice.

Royal Albert Hall, London until 11 June 11. Tickets 0171-589 8212

pervasive ninilism makes it hard to like. sighed The Telegraph. "The glacial, rigidl stylised mood is so omnipresent that it _ ri grows to swamp any element of drama. frowned The Times. "Turns the story from high porn into high geometry ... For peace on our roads, better to ban alcohol. For peace on our minds, better to ban the Daily Mail," growled the FT. "Will encourage those who have a sadistic sexual bent to feel that they are not alone," thundered The Mail. "Popularising and depicting some of the grossest seals aberrations imaginable ... A work of subversive pornography," snarled the Standard.

Cert 18, 104 mins. On selected release, excluding Westminster and parts of Surrey where it has been banned.

Required viewing for wannabe key players those on the media dinner party



DOZULENT

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GOOD

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POCK

DEADLY

# The bells! The bells!



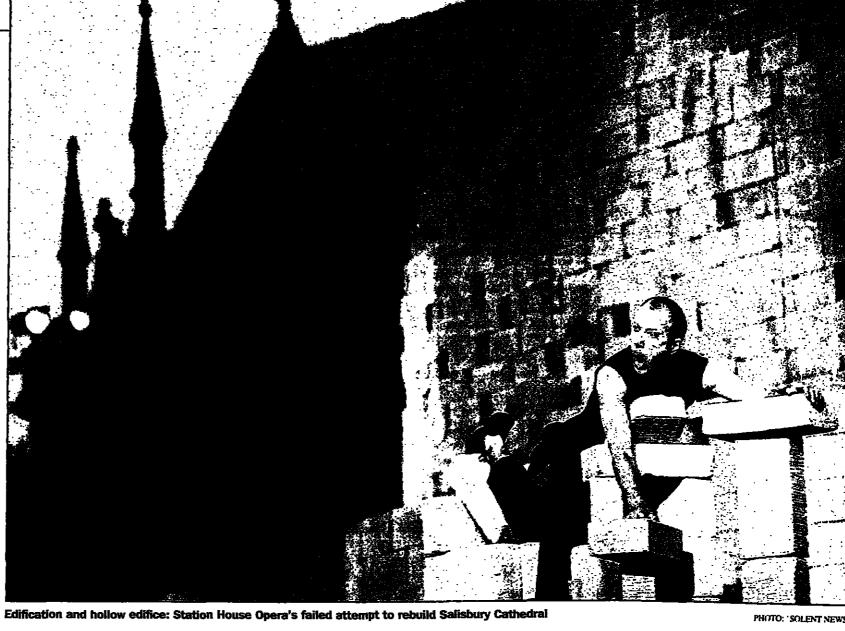
Phil Johnson hears house music with a difference at the Salisbury Festival from, among others, Robert Fripp, left

surprising contents inside: plastic dered cocks and balls. June Osborne, dinosaurs on skatehoards; a ship's lava-canon treasurer of the cathedral, has galtory complete with the sound of taperecorded seagulls; a fridge inside a fridge; a hall of mirrors; a pupper show. No one seems to take a blind bit of notice of them. Pensioners carry their Jack Higgins or Barbara Cartland to the issue desk, and swotting students come and go, too busy for the delights of Les Frigos, an installation by French artists Opus. Perhaps they've already had their fill as the fridges are now into their second week, the now they are in their natural state once dinosaurs approaching their best-by date.

But on the grand green of the cathedral which for many is Salisbury, more or less - the studied nonchalance of the natives of festival director Helen Marriage, outand the daily tour-bus quota of continental visitors is hardly less notable. In a fenced-off space adjoining the cathedral, Station House Opera are in the middle of a technical rehearsal. It isn't possible to ignore them - after all, there's 10,000 whopping great breeze-blocks piled high to form the stage-set for their symbolic reenactment of the building of the cathedral, and weird, unearthly sounds are emerging from the speakers - but there's barely a rubber-necking passer-by to be seen.

n Salisbury library, the fiction stacks tle more interest, and their giant genitals on the ground floor are intersected have provoked a moral panic of sorts over by the bulbous white cabinets of old, the preceding weeks, with sundry nuns, streamlined refrigerators. Pull official cothedral guides and the over-downwards on the chrome handles cloistered inhabitants of the close eviand the doors open to reveal the dently scandalised by the faithfully renlantly held her own end up, defending the Michelangelo-esque accuracy of the bronze bits, though in a scheduled address to the schoolchildren of Marlborough College, she could get no nearer to the nub of the matter than a reference to "thighs". As has been widely reported, local kids have been less circumspect, using cover of darkness to decorate the figures with condoms and nappies, though again, as photographers wait patiently for a mouth-agape nun to enter the frame.

Within a minute of entering the office rage rears its ugly head once again, perfectly on cue. It's a thundering phone-call from Sir Edward Heath, the cathedral close's most famous resident, complaining about parking restrictions to be enforced by today's closing fireworks concert on the green, given by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Sir Ted is upset that "his people" will be inconvenienced. Marriage thinks that perhaps he would have liked to conduct the concert himself, though he gets his go The sculptures by Elizabeth Frink that at Delius in the cathedral next month. are dotted about the green attract a lit- There's already been an irate call that



morning from a local Freemason, angry at Marriage's accusation in the Daily Telegraph that the men-in-pinnies are responsible for putting a stop to a proposed rock concert that was to have happened at a far-away airfield. If only she hadn't chosen the *Telegraph*, you feel, the Masons would never have noticed.

In the cathedral itself, technicians are setting up the equipment for a sound installation by the guitarist Robert Fripp. who is something of a local celeb, living nearby with his wife Toyah Wilcox. This has attracted a clearly identifiable audience of outsiders, a bright splurge of ethnic trouser-problems clashing with the school uniforms of children with worksheets, the turquoise-jacketed official tour-guides, the black-surpliced vergercum-security men and the armies of baggy French kiddies that together make up an average afternoon's cathedral

population. When, at 2.30pm, Fripp arrives and plugs himself in, the audience sits obe- until the crew felt guilty - so a technician diently at his feet like medieval pilgrims tells me - at nipping off to eat their sand-

anticipating a glimpse of the true cross. When, after a minute or so, Fripp gets up again and walks around the nave to inspect the sound, which, of course, continues without him - the audience looks slightly alarmed. At length, Fripp - who looks remarkably like a 19th-century curate himself - returns to his guitar and the pilgrims are happy once again. It's a wonderfully successful experiment, the music as delicate as a glass harmonica, with ambient wisps of sound echoing through the cathedral in chorus-effects of bells and voices. We sit and listen in silent communion, as schoolkids try to measure the height of columns and solemn vergers patrol the aisles, hands held behind

their backs, black skirts trailing. Fripp continues for two and a half hours, in the first of what will be four afternoons' work. At Islington's Union Chapel last Saturday - from where many of the faithful have followed him - he did a stretch of eight hours without a break

wiches. The sound is designed for a accompanied the action, such as it was. four-way quadrophonic mix over six speakers and, as the performance goes on, it seems to develop a life of its own, the whole building resonating with oohs, aahs and bleeps as Fripp adds layer to be shouting "Over and over again" upon layer of fresh textures, like a sonic over and over again, but I couldn't plasterer artexing the cathedral's ceiling. There may have been some symbolic

artexing at the grand opening performance of Station House Opera on Wednesday night, but it was difficult to be sure. Indeed, exactly what was going on - never mind what it meant remained a mystery for most of us. On the audience), one's natural concern was paper, the continuous construction of a more for health and safety than art. All building with breeze-blocks might not sound like much in the way of a perfor- in, and it seemed as if the work would mance, but the idea was infinitely more never be finished; they were still hard at entertaining than the actual event. A it when I left for last orders at a quarter group of men and women dressed in to 11. Walking back through the cathedral vaguely medieval costumes heaved the close. I imagined I could hear Sir Edward blocks about jauntily, but they mainly Heath banging his head against the wall, seemed to be moving the same blocks over and over again. from one place to another, and it was 'Les Frigos' 9.30am-4pm, Salisbury Library; very hard work. A rock band and a choir festival ends today

but it took such a long time to move the blocks that the music would run out while the work continued. At one point, someone high up in the structure seemed

swear to it. The edifice itself was spectacular but it seemed perilously close to being jerry-built and occasionally blocks would crash to the ground and the operatives jump back in alarm. With no hard hats or safety footwear (for the performers, never mind in all, it was just like having the builders

## Paradise regained in song and dance

Edward Seckerson and Louise Levene delight in Mark Morris's exuberant staging of Handel

ong and Dance. Handel after Milton according to Mark Morris. And fluid, phrased. And when "the pealing organ blows" at one point, the entire company, that's colour and movement, like everything in nature, he talked of the giddy canrhythm and harmony, in the stops to listen. A single ning of a voice that runs eye of the beholder. What you moment of stillness, and what through mazes "untwisting see is what you hear. What a moment But Morris can be all the chains that tie the you see is more than you hear. wickedly literal, too. Milton's hidden soul of harmony". And if the songs were to be pastoral heartlands, his flora Mark Morris takes Milton, on singing. Mark Morris has it every which way with his exuberant staging of Handel's L'Allegro, il Pensenso ed il silenced, the dancers would go and fauna, nymphs and shep- Handel and Blake and L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il speaking of the birds and the literal meanings of Mil-Moderato. Its purity of utterance is Handel's, its imagery vividly Miltonian, its capriciousness Morris's very own. It's one of his older pieces (it's been trail-blazing its way to London since 1988); it looks freshly composed. Freshly

Colour and light. Imagine a series of abstract canvases. their composition dramati-cally transformed through the raising and lowering of flying panels, their colours mixed or subtly reconstituted with the introduction of tinted scrims. Imagine watching a Rothko evolve. Such is the effect of designs. They have a sensory tug all of their own. The sud--den appearance of a stripe or mation, the bodily rbythm a chequered overlay can work wonders. Christine Van energy that was neither earnt wonders. Christine Van ferent palette of colours for parts one and two) set the tone especially affecting), Michael for Morris's stage pictures.

Movement and expression. Sometimes Morris works in abstracts, his dancers busily traversing the stage like the notes on Handel's stave. The explosion of bodily mirth, the joyous jumping-bean effect of bright pastels (in itself a marvellous contradiction) gives free rein, and more, to the musical expression. Simple harmonies find simple — or harmonies find simple - or solistic - patterns, all of it

bees, the mating games ton like a kitten with a ball reflect, as one might expect, of wool, Morris will sudthe camp candour and innu- denly kick the poem into endo of our times. There's touch and take a glorious even more than meets the eye detour into pure dance. and ear of that slap, kiss, and make-up routine for the dose on pleasure in the

said for Handel on this occasion. Put it down to Jane ple design slices ap space Glover's lardish direction or the disadvantaged singers (their heads comically appearing over the parapet of the pit), but the musical contribution here sounded more lighting, which contrives to like an afterthought, an make the dancers glow like Adrianne Lobel's beautiful accompaniment, than an jewels in darkness. organic part of the proceedings. Indeed, the visual infor-Loon's costumes (a totally dif-nor deserved. Susan Gritton especially affecting), Michael marvels at these ensembles, bulled into thinking that the ethereal), Ian Bostridge (pris-tine enunciation), and Ashley almost solely in the masterly Holland (somewhat gusty) were serviceable enough, but rarely more. And since far too few of the words were audible (crucial to the fine detail-

ilton unconsciously reviewed this work

You don't often get to overchaps. The real Mark Morris theatre, but everything about this production is right. The keeps standing up.

Which is more than can be rectilinear grandeur of Adrianne Lobel's deceptively simwith coloured scrims to create whole landscapes and moods, with rising and falling veils of colour altered imperceptibly by James F Ingalls's sublime

Strong and eager, they dominate the high, wide and handsome Coliseum stage as their gaudy shapes form endless patterns that mercurially evolve like magic from a few unfussy folk measures. One placement of bodies in space, and then suddenly a solo among the chain of 30 dances takes your breath away.

All around is the sound of an audience inhaling deeply, filling its lungs with the oxygen of big ideas and old masters, feasting its eyes on a sneak preview of paradise.



#### Orchestral manoeuvres in the light

CLASSICAL Ravel Through the Looking-Glass LSO / André Previn Barbican Centre, London

avel had as infallible a much about its naive moral, ments can do as any composer, but it's curious that most of his orchestral works originated as music for the piano, whether for one or two players. Usually it's impossible to prefer either version, or, at least, it's a matter of taste, for Ravel is completely at home in each medium. Yet listening to André Previn conduct Valses nobles et sentimentales at the Barbican on Thursday. you might have hankered after the light airiness of the solo piano version, so thick and soupy was the sound of the strings. Previn relaxed the tempo of the second waltz to the point of indulgence, too, but anyway, the fleetness that a single player can achieve is far less likely

with an entire orchestra. La valse, on the other hand, seems more natural in its orchestral form than in Ravel's version for two pianos, because the way it conjures up a dazzling vision out of obscurity, or awakes the past through the mists of time, relies on ordeal. Pamela Helen the orchestra's infinite capacity to create illusion and mystery. Two pianos have to work very hard to do that. Still, that misty and mysterious atmosphere was lacking here, because the lights were too bright, musically speaking, from the very beginning.

Previn certainly seemed more at home in the much sharper, kaleidoscopic colouring of Ravel's opera L'enfant et les sortilèges, which sets a children's fable by Colette. Perhaps Ravel wouldn't have cared very

sense of what instru- but its evocation of a child's make-believe world inspired the same kind of exquisite orchestral invention he showed in the fairy tales of Ma mère l'oye. In the opera, with a sharply defined sequence of events, Ravel didn't have to build up symphonic steam, so he could revel in selecting fastidiously the most ravishing and transparent effects. If that suggests the music is merely effective, it's no more nor less so than Schoenberg's evocation of adult nightmares in Erwartung. The danger for Ravel, though, was cuteness, with singers pretending to be cats and frogs, and a woman pretending to be a horrid little boy who gets his come-uppance. Ravel cast him as a

mezzo, the conventional register for trouser roles, if not for small brats, and that suggests the young man the boy will, presumably, grow into, even though his / her final utterance is "Maman!" - a sigh of relief after his Stephen was clean-cut and steady, above all young and fresh without being too pert. Anne-Marie Owens was a good matronly contrast as the boy's mother. The American coloratura Elizabeth Futral was bright but also sensuous in her triple role of Fire, Princess and Nightingale, with the rest of the cast, including David Wilson-Johnson as a clock. an armchair and a cat, and Robert Lloyd as a muchabused tree, all very strong.

Adrian Jack

# The trip of the iceberg

Lisa St Aubin de Terán joins a journey into memory's blank spaces

Skating to Antarctica by Jenny Diski, Granta, £14.99

enny Diski's autobiographical Skating to Antarctica is rather like Hitchcock's film Suspicion. Someone has a memory of something they are trying to forget, which makes them compulsive about anything to do with the circumstances of the trauma. With snow (Diski's theme), what others perceive as an irrational fear has a core of meaning to it. When confronted, it begins to heal.

Diski reveals a love of whiteness, of blank spaces and of ice. She describes ice-skating. alienation and a mother who is both present and absent. With unusual candour, Diski unbandages an unusual relationship with her mother in a real and metaphorical voyage through ice.

While actually sailing to Antarctica - with bird watchers and bored tourists - she unravels her own childhood. She takes us from her grooming as a child skater to life in an empty flat with her hysterical mother, and Diski: 'cutting a hole in the ice' then to spells in the

her mother, then herself. The absence of Diski's mother is the tip of the iceberg.

The prose drifts in and out of a dry essay style, breezy commentary, and telling it how it was. For all these shifts, what Diski has to say about her parents has a poignancy that rises above her literary irritability. Even where the ice is thinnest, it still supports the

weight of her writing.

Diski began life in London "with parents who were cash rich". That took care of her mother's desperate need to display wealth. "Of all things in her life, I was the best medium for her display", "When the money dried up," she writes. "my mother struggled heroically to maintain my appearance - the white gloves were the last thing to go, But eventually, the money, the credit and my that predominates calls out from under it, father all ran out for good and at the same remembering in a memorable way.

time." By the age of 11, Diski and her mother lived in "an empty shell, with everything including my books, though not the white gloves, taken away by the bailiffs, and we were waiting to be evicted".

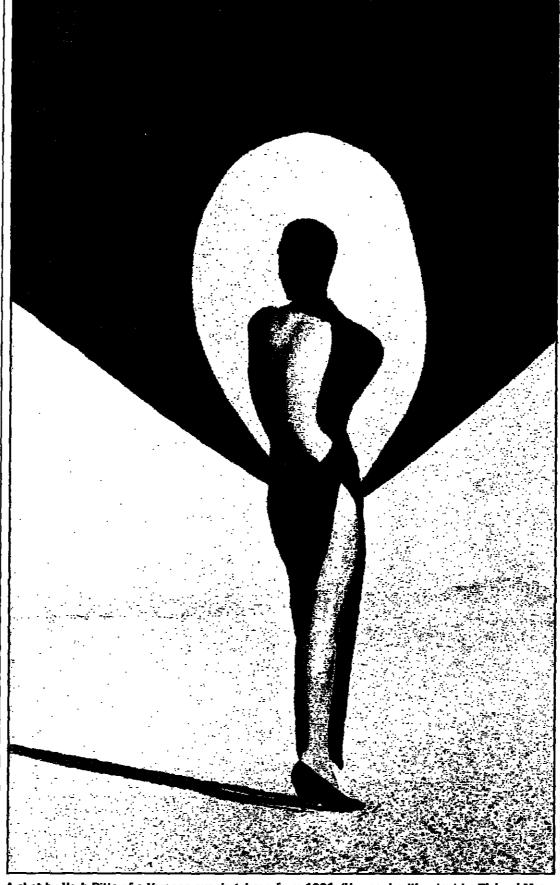
Later. Diski decides that "in order to find out if my mother was alive or dead, I would have to open the box. Miraculously, my mother had climbed into the box and closed the lid herself." She doesn't want to lift that lid. We cruise around her mother's tantrums and tears, observing her through the lens of her daughter's memory. Our

binoculars are passed from hand to hand round a chorus of elderly Jewish neighbours dredging up the dirt. not only on Diski's mother but on her father too. "He was a charmer, but he was a confidence man ...' True to her character.

it is Diski's mother who grabs centre-stage. She was "frightening in her reactions ... Her bitterness and lack of control caused me anxiety and worse, but I don't think it was done with deliberate malice ... She was sad rather than bad". Diski recalls that "living with her, day by day,

was like skating on clinical whiteness of mental wards - first for newly formed ice. It constantly shattered, every day, but there was no alternative, no other place to go. No room for anger, but no room for affection either.

Jennifer, the small child in white gloves, skated round and round the ice rink. As an adult, she gathers memories with random thoughts and observations into this book. She says of the trip to Antarctica that "I didn't plan this journey as a pilgrimage of any kind, just as a hopeful voyage into whiteness". In spite of all the searching for emptiness, there is a lot of clutter here. Occasionally the pond clogs and entangles the reader. As with someone clearing a room who can't bear to throw anything out. a new disorder grows out of the ordering. Yet Diski has cut a hole in the ice; and the voice



A shot by Herb Ritts of a Versace evening dress from 1991. 'Versace', with a text by Richard Martin for Thames & Hudson's Fashion Memoir series (£12.95), indulges in prose as over-the-top and in-your-face as the frocks it depicts. 'The Italian Renaissance is not only a paradigm of dress for Versace,' we learn, 'but also his model for life ... His great houses are equipped with equally great libraries. His ubiquitous Medusa is not a label in the fashion sense, but an insignia in the Renaissance tradition'. Absolutely fabulous, Gianni. **OARCHIVES GIANNI VERSACE** 

## France through a glass, lightly

Euan Cameron salutes the historian who found magic in the back streets



The 'baffling diversity' of life in the tavernes of Paris

memoirs, the late Richard Cobb

- former Professor of Modern History at Oxford and author of some 15 books - suggests that he was not the sort of person to engender a cult. How wrong he was. To francophiles, and to many former pupils and friends, for whom he was the finest interpreter of France to Britain of his age, there was no one quite like him.

Nobody could convey the mood of prewar Third Republic France, of Brassai and René Clair, quite as he did, because nobody else had his expertise in the recondite corners of the French language, its patois and its slang. And nobody else shared his fascination with the minutiae of local history, his delight in melancholic decay, in "faded gentility" or baffling diversity".

"L'eionnant Cobb", as Le Monde once alluded to him, was a rebel at heart, a man of strong enthusiasms and dislikes. In his travels, in his memoirs and in his approach to history, he never took the conventional route. Instead, he opted for "the sidelines, the banks of urban canals, the estaminets near railway stations. the tavernes, the narrow streets". For Cobb, it was people and individuals who illuminated history.

Not for him the theories or methodology. Instead, as he showed in his studies of the French Revolu-

n the Endpaper to this posthumously published third book of his John Murray, £20

French literature and culture, it was human relationships that mattered the ordinary people (his beloved petits gens) with whom he was happiest drinking calvados or a gros rouge in a backstreet café in Paris, Rouen or Marseilles. As in his two earlier memoirs Still

Life and A Classical Education, there is little pattern or chronology to Sofia in pursuit of an alluring Bul-Cobb's adventures. An early chapter discloses the formative influences in his "European education": the Baltic coins that first instilled the lure of foreign parts, and the history master at Shrewsbury who introduced him to film-makers such as Pabst or Jean Vigo, and thus to Weimar Berlin and Paris of the 1920s. Next, we see him in between Oxford terms, posing in Paris cases, putting at Celtiques and reading L'Oeuvre. The long path that would lead "Ic Cobb" to writing and publishing three volumes of Revolutionary history in French and which would culminate in the niban rouge of the Légion d'Honneur had its beginnings in such cafés.

A journey to Austria evokes the pleasures of travel by train across 1930s Europe, However, Vienna, where as a student he stayed at the forbidding home of Felix Salten, creator of Bambi, was definitely not to his liking. The frontiers of "the tion as well as in his "promenades" wrong Europe" were being drawn at through the eccentric byways of an early age. What a strange figure

he cut, this self-conscious young man in his long overcoat! He wandered the streets of the Hapsburg capital, distributed political pamphlets, did part-time work for a Miss Cadbury, who ran the Quaker mission, and was arrested in ludicrous circumstances for trespassing in the Ostbahnhof, with its collection of disused railway carriages, before

being expelled from the country. A later adventure takes Cobb to garian woman, with hilarious consequences. There is also a charming essay on the joys of English hotels in

But the greater part of The End of the Line is an evocation of France the prewar France that conditioned him and which he loved. Cobb's prose can be mesmeric - as in his soliloguy to Rouen and its communes. Equally, he can be discursive and maddeningly obscure. To enjoy Cobb, however, you have to share his partialities: Flaubert and Simonon. pre-1950s Paris, Pont l'Eveque cheese and calvados. Those who care for Victor Hugo, Vienna, the Tour Montparnasse or La Défense. for instance, may feel excluded.

As the final chapter draws to its moving conclusion (Cobb was ill and knew he had little time left), the author bids adieux to his wife, his friends and readers. We are left with the privileged sense that we have just attended this remarkable man's final lecture.

## Onward upward

Michael Tanner meets a philosopher who always looks on the bright side

Confessions of a Philosopher by Bryan Magee, Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

his book is a stone which is trying to kill two birds. that are further apart than Bryan Magee may realise. The first is the author's intellectual autobiography, and begins with some delightful passages in which he recalls his early childhood perplexities about the moment when one goes to sleep, the infinity of space and time, and the bewildering way in which the body obeys the will. Later Magee was to find that Kant had preceded him in feeling some of these worries, as well as offering remarkable accounts of their relationship to what we can and can't know.

That takes him on to his second subject, the nature of the philosophical enterprise. He considers some of its major western contributors over the millennia, and repeatedly excoriates 20th-century philosophy as practised in the majority of the universities of the UK. Magee considers this a self-serving affair of professionals with no serious intellectual concerns, who kill any serious interests which their pupils might have and write in a manner calculated to put off anyone but their colleagues.

By contrast with "analytic" or "linguistic" philosophers. Magee has spent most of his life outside of academe, usually earning his keep by pursuing a media career while preserving enough time to study the great issues in depth.

His mode of education has been enviable. "I would take longer works with me on my travels and soak in them for weeks at a time," he recalls: "Kant's Critique of Pure Reason during six weeks in the quiet heart of Majorca, the collected dialogues of Plato in Salzburg. Heidegger's Sein und Zeit in Bayreuth, the Confessions of St Augustine in Sicily, Hume's Enquiries in Sweden. the works of Leibniz on Lake Garda, Pascal in the West of England."

In between these depth excursions, Magee often took part in trail-blazing intellectual chat shows on TV, pursued a career as a critic of opera, records, the theatre. He wrote books on the way forward for Labour, on homosexuality, Wagner and Karl Popper; and had periodic sojourns in universities.

But something was lacking, despite seeming "to have everything I could reasonably want - good health, energy, an adventurous life, rewarding friendships, exhilarating love affairs, success in my work, exciting travel, the sustained nourishment of music, theatre, reading". Simply: "The realisation hit me like a demo-lition crane that I was inevitably going to die".

A couple of chapters later things are still just as bad: "I had published eight books, stood for parliament twice, and for some years had been appearing on a regular peak-hour television programme. In a way I was a sort of minor celebrity; I was recognised by strangers in the street, addressed by name in shops and restaurants, asked for my auto-

graph. But none of this had any value for me." The search for meaning went on. Magee had the privilege of knowing Popper and Russell well, but though he regards them as probably the two greatest geniuses of philosophy in our century, they had nothing to say on the issues which plagued his life, to that point where he often felt he was going mad. Even after writing his philosophical novel Facing Death he is still dissatis- Bryan Magee: 'big issues'



fied. Three chapters later still, "I had published several books that had received good reviews, and I was earning my living enjoyably as a broadcaster on radio and television.

It was only when, finally, after reading all the other great philosophers, he turned to Schopenhauer - notoriously neglected by academic philosophers - that he at last found someone who had felt the problems he felt, and went at least some way to assuaging the anguish they cause. "He speaks to me as no other philosopher does, direct and in his own human voice. a fellow-spirit, a penetratingly perceptive friend, with a hand on my elbow and a twinkle in his eye."

The two chapters on Schopenhauer are the climax of this long book. Anyone who has heard something about Schopenhauer but not much is likely to expect. and justifiably, that a lengthy consideration of him will mention that, most unusually in the western tradition. he was a pessimist. That word doesn't occur in Magee's book, and by design. He holds the extraordinary view that Schopenhauer got most things impressively more right than other philosophers, but that he made a mistake in being a pessimist - an ill-advised optional extra to his overall view.

That seems to me so monumental a blunder as almost to disarm criticism. But over and over again. Magee registers his dissent from views in terms which leave it unclear that he has any basic grasp of them. Kant, his second most admired thinker, gets a roughly similar treatment to Schopenhauer.

And Magee's criticisms of analytic philosophy, with what he considers its sterile confinement to issues of language rather than of reality, show that he hasn't ever scriously considered the fundamental issue of how one is to find out the nature of the real merely by taking

Fairly carly on, rebuking Wittgenstein in Russell-like terms for ratting at "the grave and important task of understanding the world," he summarises what he believes to be true: "the perception that there is something mystical about the very existence of the world: the realisation that any significance that life has is transcendental, as must be also all values, morals, and the import of art; and that it is for that reason inherently impossible to give a satisfactory account in language of these things".

As an old-style unregenerate analytic philosopher, in part, I want to ask Magee why he thinks that "I ought not to write spitefully about other people" is a transcendental truth, and even what that might mean. No answer is forthcoming. This book chattily goes on its way, at what I can only describe as a middlebrow level. Big issues are constantly wielded, but since their resolution inevitably turns out to be transcendental, no one will be left the wiser, except as to the driving impulses in the life of Bryan Magee.

### Driven to distraction by mother's little helper

Curprisingly, the au pair does not seem yet to be a significant forms in Web. to be a significant figure in 20th-century fiction. But this is a role rich with promise the nearest modern thing to the 19th-century governess. She has the same opportunity for governess's tale detached observation of an alien and potentially menacing domestic set-up, while herself providing a further dimension of enigmatic challenge. In the tradition of the genre, she must be not so much an unreliable narrator as one who is patently holding something back. She has walked into a haffling situation, but the reader is also teased by her own circumstances. What has

brought her to this? So here is Rachel Cusk flying a kite for au pair/governess literature and nicely abiding by the requirements. Her protagonist, Stella Benson, is nothing if not opaque. She quits job and husband. writes a chilly letter to her parents saying she wishes to cut off relations, and unaccountably takes a job as au pair with the Maddens, a family equipped with rolling acres, an Aga and stone pineapples in front of their mansion.

Penelope Lively welcomes a modern twist to the

The Country Life by Rachel Cusk, Picador, £15.99

Stella's ignorance of country life is such that she seems never to have seen a field of wheat before. She is fazed by everything - summer heat. flora and fauna and, most of all, by the Maddens themselves: manic father, histrionic mother and the initially prickly disabled 17-year old son who is to be Stella's particular charge. Meanwhile the reader is being driven distracted by Stella, who is the most peculiar young woman. She is 29 but with a mindset so ponderous that her reflections seem to spring from another age. "The day ... held no promise of nourishment other than what I might procure for myself ... some article of shame extended family is a spectacularly unappealing

palate". She is self-absorbed, introspective and bleak in the extreme, Woven into her narrative are hints that all is indeed not quite as it seems.

Why does she have that name? Sure enough, in due course she picks up a book by the writer Stella Benson, the title of which sends out a hefty signal. The climate of the novel is a curious mix oppressive and intriguing. Stella's stilted language conveys a Mad Hatter's tea-party impression of the Madden household as the story moves in slow motion through the days. A focus of tension is the fact that a driving licence was a condition of the job; Stella can't drive and must surely

be rumbled, sooner or later. The scene in which, coached by the now conspiratorial disabled boy, she drives him to his day centre, is a splendid cliff-hanger. This mundane activity is another fictional black hole, one realises. The literature of driving surfaces only

in exaggeration: Accident: Crash. More Maddens arrive on the scene. The would provide a bitter chaser for my siekened array. But by then Stella herself has become a comes as welcome relief.

nightmare au pair. She is accident-prone beyond belief. She fulls downstairs, she vomits on the lawn, she tracks melted tar across the carpet, she floods the kitchen floor.

In one chaotic sequence the opening of a fridge door sets off a chain of events which ends with her pitching drunk into the swimming-pool. Her detachment from the ordinary requirements of life is such that she has arrived without enough clothes and has no money because she has thrown away her cheque book.

Stella's feeklessness seems at odds with her ponderous and indeed elderly thought processes. There is a certain heetic comedy in her progress from mishap to disaster, but she comes across less as a comic character than a perplexing and frequently maddening one. But there are hidden explanations for her behaviour. If the ending seems a touch indecisive, after the adroitly paced narrative with its sequence of vigorous scenes, we are by then so affected by Stella's selfdestructive progress that a glimmer of hope

**Vard** 

# Stinks, squalor and splendour

Jan Morris marks a metropolitan mastermind – and imagines Tony Blair in petticoat breeches

Restoration London by Liza Picard. Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £20

magine Samuel Pepys re-incarnated as a 20th-century woman lawyer, and looking back at 17th-century London not as a diarist but as a social analyst. Imagine P D James deciding to set a thriller in the time of Charles II and assembling her background materials. Imagine a civil servant, Grade 5, mugging up on the period after the Great Fire for Mastermind. Put the three together, and you may have some idea of Liza Picard's Restoration London.

Ms Picard is a 69-year-old barrister who worked for years in the office of the Solicitor of the Inland Revenue. She has never written a book before, but what she lacks in experience she certainly makes up for in enthusiasm and virtuoso knowledge. There is almost no aspect of life in Restoration London that is not meticulously described in these 300-odd pages. You want laundry methods? You want hospital waiting lists? Mirror glass? Planning regulations? Juries? Public transport? Lavatory systems? Parks? Pornography? Making a will? Cooking a pike? Ms Picard passes on none. I would not like to have crossed accounts with her when she was with the Inland Revenue.

"I hope", she tells the reader in her forward, with the property of the book optimizing.

that you will at least find the book entertaining. if taken in small doses". She might have been writing her own review. Restoration London is highly entertaining, but hardly to be read at one go. It is a challenging sort of bedside book. Although I did read it all the way through, my responses were inconsistent. Sometimes it kept me happily awake, eager for yet more curious nuggets of instruction. Sometimes it sent me off to sleep. Since it is nearer an anthology than a work of literature, I was reduced to jotting down a few varied revelations from its cornucopia of surprises. For example:

• James I thought the site of St James's Park a good place for keeping crocodiles.

 "Daughter" was pronounced "dafter" in 17thcentury London, and when they wanted to say "come off it" they said "go shoe the goose!"

• In 1656, 100 different varieties of daffodil were listed, and 50 kinds of hyacinth.

• Urine was a marketable commodity, used in the tanning of hides and making soap. • Human teeth were sometimes implanted in

toothless people's jaws; there was a glut of them after the Great Fire. • Hatters really were liable to madness, because

of the mercury used in beaver felt hats. When there was a national church collection to help relieve the hardships of the Fire, the parishioners of Devon contributed £1,480 6s, of Meiri-

onydd, £1 16s. The second most common cause of death for women, after childbirth, was cooking at open fires

Women appear prominently in this register, from duchesses to whores (whose bawdy-houses were traditionally demolished by violent apprentices on Shrove Tuesday). Picard is not one of your



London in ruins after the Great Fire: rebuilding was 'achieved with an almost transatlantic efficiency

viewpoint. We learn about the horrible midwives on a different planet. At other moments, it of the time, who killed many of their patients, seemed remarkably like the modern world. of the time, who killed many of their patients. pushed awful things up mothers' vaginas and were always in a hurry to get on to the next confinement. We hear about prices, fashionable underwear and anti-perspirants. We imagine how difficult it was getting into a Thames skiff in a full skirt with stays. At the end, we muse on the unlikelihood of much

change in our lives "while men control them". All this gives the book a contemporary fresh-

he-or-she grammarians, thank God, but she is evi- clear 20th-century perspective. The effect is long after his time. The 17th-century traffic jams ing, sometimes contemptuous; swells drive around dently a strong and sensible feminist, and surveys strange. Sometimes everything sounded so difthe Restoration scene frankly from a woman's ferent that Restoration England might have been

The rebuilding of London after the Great Fire, for example, seems to have been achieved with an almost transatlantic efficiency. The interfering bossiness of those midwives reminds me very much of modern NHS obstetrics. The 58 different drugs they gave Charles II in the last week of his life, together with bleedings, enemas and red-hot irons on his feet, were disturbingly akin to the techness. Liza Picard is looking at her period from a nological wizardries that kept Franco breathing

sound depressingly familiar; so do the muggers who haunted the ruins of the Fire. The street cries of the day were probably not much unlike the mysterious chant of the newspaper-seller which sounded outside Kensington High Street tube station when I was last in London.

London itself dominates the book - snobbery, stinks, squalor, splendour and all. More than most capitals, London remains more or less the same. You will no longer find the truncated heads of wrongdoers ornamenting the capital, but in essence ours is the same city that Liza Picard records. Foreigners throng its streets still, sometimes admir-

in ostentatious equipages; Samuel Pepyses proposition their secretaries and birds of high plumage still strut and squawk around St James's Park.

History seldom falters here, and London's continuity is unique among the nations - if one generation tires, the next soon resumes the rhythm. After reading Liza Picard's book I find it quite possible to imagine, say, Tony Blair rigged out in the petticoat breeches of his Parliamentary predecessors 300 years ago - trousers which were trimmed with yards and yards of ribbon, and fashionably worn at half-mast, hanging from the wearer's hips, Mr Major, no. Mr Blair, perhaps.

Boar Pagest of St

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## Whoppers from the burgher

#### Felipe Fernández-Armesto on a Swiss family's tall tales

oap-opera fans would love The Beggar and the Professor by the European 16th century. Routine family squabbles were heightened by convulsive social change, religious conflict, rampant inflation, intrusive rulers and the sudden disasters inflicted by sickness and childbirth. Meanwhile, in a favourite image of the time, the wheel of fortune churned those who

clung to it between rags and riches. The Platter family of Basle wrote their own saga: three generations left colourful memoirs or journals, backed up by letters. Their involvement in the business of medicine brought them close to life-and-death stories. Their student days, vividly described, provide comic relief. Their scientific interests gave them a privileged window onto exciting novelties. Their Protestantism made them part of a radical vanguard, Their der..... dailiances and devotions involved them in loves and hatreds. Instead of adapting it for in-

screen, Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie has turned their story into a history book. The author of Montaillou has a great gift for winkling the human interest out of old documents, but the Platters defy attempts to re-write their own works. They did the job too well themselves in the first place. Le Roy Ladurie makes a tactical mistake in foreclosing on the youngest generation. His story of one father and one son is unsatisfyingly limited. He crowds the pages with minor characters, of whom too little is known to make them interesting. Although he does an excellent inb of fixing the chronology and using unpublished material from letters, he takes an uncritical view of the strange feats of memory which produced parts of the memoirs - especially those of the dynasty's founder, who surely recalled his early life with the exaggerations that come easily in old age.

Time is wasted on an irrelevant and inaccurate round-up of news from all over the world at a representative moment of the story. Some episodes are discarded with bewildering rapidity; descriptions of some journeys are long and colourless. Le Roy Ladurie is a master of the representative detail and uses the Platters' lives as a means to see a whole century "through a glass, darkly"; hut some of his attempts to draw wider significance from small events are cute or embarrassing. With typical infelicity, when one of his characters, who is Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, Chicago University Press, £29.95

Swiss, prefers "to be a butcher than a priestling", the author adds, "The anticlericalism that would become such a prominent feature of French politics in the late 19th and early 20th centuries clearly had deep roots."

Despite these defects, the Platter story is good enough to grip. Le Roy Ladurie represents it as "a saga of social ascent in the story of a transmission of learning", which turns an exgoatherd into an ornament of Basle society. Education ennobled in the 16th century, and Thomas Platter the elder was a worker of demonic energy. mastering the classics in the rare intervals of leisure which poverty allowed. reward - though not quite enough of either for his son to escape opprobrium

for his affectation of aristocratic dress. Lis life as a schoolmaster brought its own forms of frustration. Thomas's daughter-in-law, who came from a richer home, could not stand having noisy pupils on the premises. The "career plan" Ladurie identifies - to become a rural landowner - was abandoned by the next generation, which had solidly bourgeois tastes.

Yet the Platters' lives do not seem quite to have happened in the world Le Roy Ladurie depicts, riven between emulous classes. Thomas rose not from class to class but from estate to estate in a society based on family structures and vertically arrayed communities. It is true that he kept goats in childhood, followed a mendicant's vocation while wandering in search of learning, and supported himself as a ropemaker for a while. But he always had prospects from the benevolence of his copious kin. Destined for the priesthood – as ordinary lives and complex characters many promising boys were for the dignity of their impoverished families - he got more help in his quest for education than he later cared to admit. A legacy came from his mother, a loan from his uncle and gifts of butter, cheese and eggs from

female cousins at a critical stage. What really drove the Platters in their relentless efforts to acquire qualifications and clients? Was it the ter genuinely evinced or, as Le Roy Ladurie, believes, social ambition?

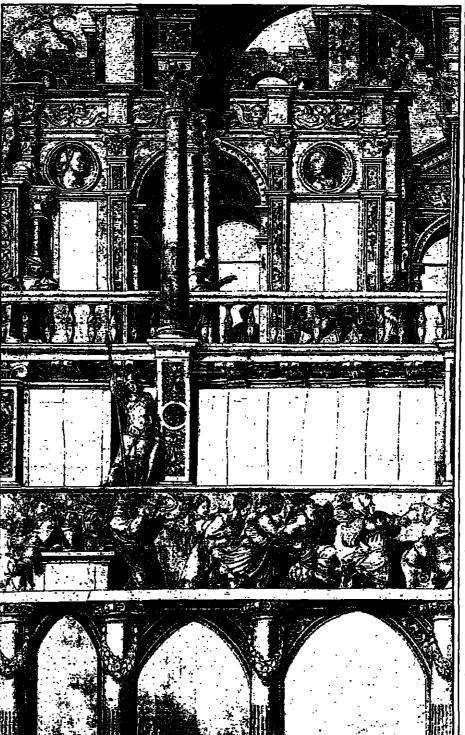
from happiness". But he was a conscientious physician, willing to treat the poor and needy as well as the reputable and rich.

His father took pride in his place in the acceptance world of Basle burghers, but never forgot bis own early hardships and showed compassion, for instance, on the pauper orphan the Platters adopted. It was a Platter family characteristic to be ruled by conscience and whim as

much as by calculation of advantage. As Le Roy Ladurie sees it, the world through which the Platters moved was divided not only by differences of class but also of religion and ethnicity. Early conversion to Protestantism diverted Thomas from his intended career in the Church; but the violence we often associate with Hone: and prosperity were his the Reformation hardly touched his family's life. Le Roy Ladurie has found - somewhat to his own surprise that Thomas and his son matured into broad-mindedness as "ultradogmatic orthodoxy was gradually supplanted by tolerance and a kind of eclectic devotion". Thomas's heir even contemplated making the Santiago pilgrimage, without forsaking any of his evangelical self-consciousness. He was influenced - as the author shows - by the religion of friends of Jewish ancestry.

He was more impressed by differences between Germanic and Romance language-zones than hetween the rival confessions among which he lived. The German-speakers had their own culture, symbolised in the frequent drunkenness with which Platter and his boon-companions offended the respectable during their student-days in Montpellier.

The Platters' main works about themselves are all available in good English translations and their extracan be enjoyed in their own words. Le Roy Ladurie's book is helpful in sorting out chronological problems and gathering a selection of thrilling anecdotes within a single pair of covers. Readers can smile at the antics of child beggars, marvel at the comradely violence with which friends maltreated each other, chuckle at the perils of courtship and raise cycbrows at the cosy corruption love of learning which Thomas Plattorate were conducted in the Platters' Basic. The 16th century is displayed



Ladurie, believes, social amolition:

For Thomas's eldest surviving son, we For Thomas's eldest surviving son, we in isolated little pools of vivid light in 'Hans Holbein' by Oskar Rätenbergen and Bosel. Since the surviving son, we in isolated little pools of vivid light in 'Hans Holbein' by Oskar Rätenbergen and Bosel. Since the surviving son, we in isolated little pools of vivid light in 'Hans Holbein' by Oskar Rätenbergen and Bosel. Since the surviving son, we in isolated little pools of vivid light in 'Hans Holbein' by Oskar Rätenbergen and Bosel. Since the surviving son, we in its light and the surviving son, we have the surviving son, we have the surviving son, we have the surviving son and bosel. For Thomas's eldest surviving soil, we are told, "social success was not far about his mysterious new novel over the page.



in books



hen the Independent ran an extract from Anne Michaels's mesmerising Y first novel, some readers who had loved its incandescent prose but overlooked the small print rang in to check the book's details. As I recall, men and women 'phoned in equal numbers - a trivial point, you might assume. Well, on Wednesday, Fugitive Pieces mocked its long odds as a 6-1 outsider to win Michaels the second Orange Prize for fiction by women. And Professor Lisa Jardine, who chaired the judging panel for the £30,000 award, prefaced this supremely just decision with a broadside against male critics who refuse to rate novels from female authors. "Not only do men tend not to read the novels women read," she thundered. "They don't seem to think it matters either - not even if they consider themselves to be discerning readers of the modern novel".

She cited Christina Stead as a prime exam-

ple of a major figure spurned by the cock-eyed tastes of the male literati. Up to a point. When James Wood used to sermonise from his pulpit as the Guardian's critic-in-chief, scarcely a week would pass without some scornful comparison between the wretched work under review and - the unrivalled greatness of Christina Stead. The general case, however, remains strangely true. Women will happily read the most testosterone-fuelled of writers. Terry Pratchett has a horde of female fans; as does Iain Banks; as does Irvine Welsh.

The reverse – to male readers' loss – doesn't yet apply. One reason for this imbalance may lie in feminist rhetoric iself. At least in the grim, sectarian Seventies, many of its advocates planted huge "Men: keep off" signs around the flourishing terrain of women's fiction. Yet literature is no one's private ground; literature is common ground - as Virginia Woolf once wrote. Ironically, one way to haul male readers out of the self-inflicted literary purdah that rightly bothers Lisa Jardine might be to invite more open-minded male critics to review novels by women. (It was Geoff Dyer who, in these pages, hailed Fugitive Pieces as "an unprecedented imaginative creation".)

One other aspect of Anne Michaels's triumph deserves attention. For the second time - after Helen Dunmore's victory - the Orange Prize has gone to a distinguished poet-turnednovelist. Margaret Atwood - also a poet - contended on the shortlist, while one of this spring's boldest novels (Impossible Saints) came from another twin-track creator, Michele Roberts. At the moment, more women than men seem to manage high achievement in both verse and prose. But literature exists to upend generalities - including that one. John Fuller a relative latecomer to fiction - belongs in



#### By Christopher Hirst and Emma Hagestadt

Eden Renewed by Peter Levi (Papermac, £12.00) Though much-quoted, John Milton remains a daunting Titan of literature. This admirably succinct biography makes Milton's work, including his Latin verse, accessible to the modern reader. The turbulent political milieu in which Milton became so deeply enmeshed is defuly conveyed. Levi delights in the disparities of the 17th century. The soaring cadences of Paradise Lost are set alongside a contemporary view of Milton as "a dead dog, a canker worm, a petty schoolboy scribbler."

The Hilt by Dick Francis (Michael Joseph, £9.99) Alexander Kinloch, artist and self-styled weirdo, lives in a small bothy on a remote Scottish fellside. Unaccountably beaten up one day by a group of thuggish hill walkers, "Mad A" group of thuggish hill walkers, "Mad A" is plunged into a horsey mystery – one involving his uncle (the Earl of Kinloch), his stepfather (Ivan George Westerling, pillar of the Jockey Club) and the missing King Alfred Gold Cup. An old-fashioned yarn of mistaken identities and overnight sleepers. John Buchan meets the Racing Gazette.

Savages by Joe Kane (Pan, £6.99) After all but drowning in his previous work. Running the Amazon, here Kane almost starves to death in the Ecuadorian jungle. Still, he fares better than a visiting bishop who was found skewered "by 17 palmwood spears, each 10 feet long". The indigenous Huaorani people turn out to be tough and resilient (if infuriating), but their survival is threatened by predatory oil companies. In this absorbing account, hilarious and heartbreaking by turns, there's no doubt who Kane regards as the real savages.

Infinity and the Mind by Rudy Rucker (Penguin, £5.99) While many of the concepts tackled here are tantalising such as the infinitely large "Hilbert's Hotel", which can be filled by a number known as "alef-one" - the nonmathematician will rapidly throw in the towel. Rucker tries to be the human face of mathematics, using cartoons and references to Chuck Berry to make his point, but the symbols win in the end.

Trampled Lilies by Lady Fortesque (Back Swan, £6.99) The fragrant author (1888-1951), who enjoyed posthumous success with Perfume from Provence proved no shrinking violet when the tide of war swept through her adopted homeland. Despite doubts ("the rot of Communism had tainted the army of the South"), she briskly organised billets until forced to flee. After a thrilling drive to Brittany, Lady F plus beloved spaniel caught the last boat home. Back in England, a chance overhearing raised her spirits: "I can't get that Lady Fortesque off me 'eart. 'Ow, I do 'ope she's ortright." With four titles now in print, the answer is yes.

Onitsha by J M G Le Clézio (Bison Books, £13.99) Separated by the outbreak of war in Europe. Fintan has never met his English father. When finally he and his Italian mother receive word to join him in Nigeria, they've almost made themselves sick with imaginings of their future home. But nothing can prepare them for Onitsha a place of red ravines, silky rivers and hot winds. Every bit as readable as Joyce Carey and William Boyd when it comes to colonial types. Le Clézio also manages to pull off the mystery of Africa without getting too French about it. This beautifully written book gets as close to the heart of darkness as poetically possible.

#### **Audiobooks**



ven more revealing than what we say about ourselves in our own write is what we say in our own voice. Alec Guinness reading his own "Diary of a Retired Actor", My Name Escapes Me (Penguin, 3hrs, £7.99), enhances his reputation as funny, cultivated and modest; the richness of his talented life is reflected in how much he has to remember, and still enjoy. The drug smuggler Howard Marks, enfant terrible of Oxford in the 1970s and notoriously capable of charming his way out of most scrapes, is distinctly diminished by his autobiography Mr Nice (Reed, 3hrs, £7.99). His awed and repetitive roll call of his biggest ever heists, cleverest carriers and most ingenius aliases has lots of clichéd declarations for the family who (inexplicably) stood behind him, but leaves the impression of a man with £ signs in his eyes rather than soul.

Christina Hardyment

**NEW AUTHORS** Publish Your Work All Subjects Considered RIFE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO MÎNERVA PRÊŜS IOMPTON RD. LONDON SW7 3DQ

# Paperbacks Rooms of their own



#### Simon Watney sketches the partnership that framed a life in art

Duncan Grant by Frances Spalding, Chatto & Windus, £25

uncan Grant has been rather shabbily treated in the extensive literature on Bloomsbury. He is often dismissed as a "merely decorative" artist - especially, one feels, by those who care little about art - or else as an emotional flibbertigibbet. Not least among the merits of this welcome biography is that Frances Spalding presents him as he would doubtless have wished to be presented - as, above all, a painter. Painting was the stable centre of his life, his rod and staff. He embodied the type of the artist at its purest, as countless anecdotes testify here. Moreover, the artist who emerges was a man of immense vitality and charm. Grant never seems to have exercised that charm selfishly, but it enveloped him like a radiance, sometimes a shield but never a sword.

Given his father's military career, his childhood was peripatetic. His parents were constantly on the move between postings in India and Burma, with frequent trips home to Britain. His father was hopeless with money, as was Duncan. Hence the great significance of the idea of home in his subsequent life and work, after he set- I can do is to build slowly for her a tled down for the first time at the age of 17 in the uncomfortable position of a poor relation in the bustling



Duncan Grant (above left) and (above) at his 90th-birthday dinner party

"that vast Caravanserai that was 69 Lancaster Gate".

Surrounded by garrulous Strachey cousins he found his own peace and quiet in the world of museums and galleries, a quality he shared with Vanessa Bell, with whom he lived for almost half a century. They protected one another from the intrusions of over-literary relations, and recognised an equally intense commitment to the less consciously intellectual routine of the studio.

It was never going to be an easy relationship. As he noted in a 1918 diary: "I was hurt slightly by her saying she got no more from me than a brotherly affection ... I am so uncertain of my real feeling to V that I am utterly unable to feign more than I feel when called upon to feel so much ... the only thing lacking is my feeling to her in passion ... All I feel completely strong affection on which she can lean her weary self."

Certainly there were emotional household of his aunt, Lady Stephen, costs for them both, but these did not unique contribution to early modwhich he memorably described as I think outweigh the gains of deep, ernist European art.

she had a certain butch chic. In the

formal world of 1950s broadcasting,

the contrast between Spain in her

"natty gents' sportswear," and fellow-

panellists such as Lady Isobel Barnett

in their stiff evening dresses was strik-

ing. Some people thought her merely

bohemian, but others recognised the

dress-code and were grateful to have

story is that of witnessing someone

getting away with it. Not only did this

person, who would these days be

described as a "visible lesbian". have

a large gay following (particularly for her decidedly camp detective sto-ries), but she was read and listened to by thousands of ordinary heterosex-

ual pre-feminist women. Contracts

with Women's Hour and She, the

magazine founded and edited by her

lover Joan ("Jonnie") Werner Laurie,

brought her into homes where women

still had their place. Through Spain,

such women could learn what it might

be like to work a dockland crane, go

rock-climbing or rally-driving.
With a certain amount of discretion

she even wrote about her own domes-

tic set-up with "a very nice lady pub-

lisher (i.e Laurie) and her two sons".

One of the pleasures of Spain's

so engaging a role-model.

Out and about in

an innocent age

Peter Parker on a gay old timer

A Trouser-wearing Character: the life and times of Nancy Spain by Rose Collis, Cassell, £25

he's gay, she's provocative ... She's going places", the News of the World boasted when it

acquired Nancy Spain as a columnist in 1961. That headline, like much of

Rose Collis's welcome biography, is a

reminder of a more innocent world

than ours, a world in which it was seriously suggested that the trouser-wear-

ing Spain might be about to marry

Gilbert Harding, a man in whom

bachelorhood could hardly have been

Spain and Harding were among the

first television "personalities" at a

period when a modicum of talent and

decorum was required of those

appearing on panel games. Unlike Harding, Spain never gave the impres-

sion that such programmes were

beneath her. She was a genuine pop-

ulist who had made her name in the

pages of Beaverbrook's Daily Express,

where she began as the paper's chief

book reviewer before gradually

The Express promoted her as a controversialist: "They call her Vulgar,

they call her Unscrupulous; they have

called her the worst-dressed woman

in Britain". Vulgar and unscrupulous

she undoubtedly was, but although

rarely prevailed upon to wear a frock,

becoming a free-range columnist.

more obviously confirmed.

enduring love and mutual respect, In 1930 he asked himself, in the throes of an unhappy love-affair, why Vanessa "does not believe that I love her as much as ever I did? When she is unhappy I am unhappy too ... I want too much I suppose ... As I am made

as I am I must do the best with myself

and ... with others."

After reading this book, it is not possible to regard Vanessa Bell simply as a kind of injured innocent, as is currently fashionable in American feminist martyrology. Their long relationship possesses its own integrity, and enabled both of them to sustain major creative careers on their own terms, as they chose, within a society that sadly remains strongly moralistic and homophobic.

Here as elsewhere Frances Spalding has contributed substantially to the beginnings of a serious reconsideration of their work. It has previously been absurdly neglected or belittled. most regrettably obscuring their JANE BOWN AND DERRY MOORE

Spalding guides us defuly through a long life which contained at least as many disappointments as triumphs. Through it all Duncan Grant remained an overwhelmingly loveable man - loyal, trustworthy, generous, kind, funny, sexy, modest and entirely unassuming. He genuinely liked women, and was never entirely happy in the somewhat brittle, men-only world inhabited by so many early 20th-century British homosexuals. Always his own man, he was never a slave to fashion, never doctrinaire. The only past he dwelt upon was that of painting.

He appears here as a remarkable modern figure. That he was also per-haps the greatest British painter since Gainsborough, with whom his art has many affinities, is another good reason for reading this shrewd and thoughtful book.

It is thus particularly regrettable that its publishers have evidently taken so little trouble with the quality of most of the photographic illustrations.

a place where "all roads lead to CD-Rom". I'm not sure that this anger is right for Porter's muse. He began as a sardonic satirist of the deny his right to be angry. An unexpected and more positive note of reconciliation with his Australian background is struck in "National Service". Don Paterson wants to be more learned than lurching about like a Paul McCartney, his quality

failed geography", whereas another big set-piece, The Alexandrian Library Part II" merely fails the challenge of Paul Muldoon. God's Gift to Women is artfully packaged with a lot of knowing jokes, most of which would have been better left

on the dunny wall. In the quieter carrels of his library, Paterson aspires to MacNeice's intensely graceful lyric moments. This influence inspires some of his best

God's Gift to Women

John Burnside was praised some books ago by Sean O'Brien for not being "a tweedy nature boy", by which he meant that Burnside writes from that neck of the woods that gave us rural incest rather than Harvest Festival suppers. In A Normal Skin (Cape. £7), Burnside dissolves the unities of time and space into a half-lit world where the shed skins of other lives haunt and propagate themselves. Favourite words are drowned, vanish, veil, smoke. muffled, ghosts. There's a ghoulish edge: a poem on his father ends with "his taste for carrion". It has been remarked that nature poetry has virtually disappeared in the 1990s, with Burnside its lone successful practitioner. But he's no Edward Thomas, being as dandified as anyone with titles likes "Ukiyo-e", epigraphs from William Carlos Williams, fancy words like "haar" instead of mist.

The centrepiece of Sarah Maguire's The Invisible torrential passion rendered as an electrical storm This is the downside of provincial dandyism: the belief that the oblique and polysyllabic can automatically carry the freight of emotion. They can't: "Your bunched, curled faces/magenta and

this batch. There is not much of any kind of dandy in him, although he does live in Newcastle. "Anniversary Photograph" in Facing Things (Carcanet, £9.95), would have fulfilled Larkin's worst fears about marriage and the muse. Marriage is seen as "flattened grass" and the muse takes a beating too: "The bed is rumpled, a crumpled invitation". Elliot's is a decent, humane poetry, fullof musings on people and places – a Yorkshire ammonite, an old bakelite wireless, lost household objects refound. "A Family Wireless" has more urgency than most: "I daren't retune it: set before the war/on Home, it doesn't know it's Radio Four."



Nancy Spain: 'gay, provocative and going places'

this was less surprising than the fact that the younger boy was Spain's son. This was something that not even he discovered until after Spain and Laurie died together when the light aircraft in which they were travelling to the Grand National crashed in a cab-

bage-field near the racecourse. Also part of this ménage was Sheila van Damm, racing driver and manager of the Windmill Theatre, with whom Laurie (as her son explained) "would go off and do fairly butch boys" things together". This is probably all they did, although their relationship was undoubtedly more than friendship. Spain, on the other hand, had several affairs, most openly with Readers were not, of course, informed Ginette Spanier, the (married) direc-

NEWS INTERNATIONAL that the two women shared a bed, but trice of Balmain. (She may have had a liaison with Dietrich - but then who didn't?) Spain and Laurie's partner-

ship easily withstood such diversions. Collis traces Spain's life and career with diligence and good humour, but occasionally with rather too much detail. By the time we get on to Spain's service in the WRNS, however, the book gathers momentum. "Don't be an officer," one pal advised her. "You go on being a bloody pirate." Spain took the counsel to heart, and Collis is particularly good at capturing this buccaneering aspect. When Spain behaved badly, Collis says so, but this is a properly affectionate portrait which rescues from gathering oblivion an unlikely but cheering representative of her era.

# Independent choice: By Peter Forbes

Peter Porter long ago espoused the cause of the provincial dandy in poetry – the kind of poetry whose polymathic wit was sharpened miles from High Table. Since a recent major anthology is chieffy. encouraged us to believe that poetry is chiefly a property of the Celtic fringe and the Middle Ages is worth reminding ourselves that we mostly live in towns and cities, however much we put out tendrill into nature and the past.

Porter has been a great force in English poetry for nearly 40 years. In his new collection **Dragons** their Pleasant Palaces (Oxford Poets, £6.99), he reflects ruefully on the rewards for such commitment in "The Deaths of Poets": "But, somehow/it all went wrong, death couldn't be postponed/symposia and Festschriften rotted/. hoped for vindications, complete with jokes/and anecdotes, were never written or/were spiked by anecdotes, were never written or/were spixed by teenage editors". This mood – despite characteristic burrowings into his beloved Italy and the 19th century – pervades the book, and is not merely poetic and personal. As "The Western Canoe" says: "We're all in it together, paddling downstream/as in that clip from Sanders of the River..." Which is a poetical-polite way of saying up Shit Creek: drowning in technical jargon, TV wars, stranded in

consumer society ("love goes as the MG goes") and wits strike home best when cool, but no one can

the Oxbridge boys, while simultaneously starring in his own road movie. This dichotomy has him control department AWOL. The best poem in his second collection God's Gift to Women (Faber, £6.99), "A Private Bottling", laments a failed relationship in "a chain of nips ... the tincture of a

Pick of the week

poems: "Siesta",
"Candle Bird", "Imperial", "Advice to Young Husbands", the "Bottling". But his strongest suit is still the microtones of description. He's a kind of verse Nicholson Baker: "the snot-string of a knotted Featherlite", "the vacuum of a black Costa Rica/the smell of it, capric, deeply provocative".

Mender (Cape. £7) is a version of Marina
Tsvetaeva's long sequence "Wires". This seems to
me the voice Maguire is searching for: Tsvetaeva's coursing down telegraph wires. In Maguire's own poems, feeling is muffled by imagistic throwaways. saffron/phototropic with desire/inexorably riding the

light". Chrysanthemums, actually.

Alistair Elliot is the wild (or rather tame) card in Perhaps he should have dared to shift that dial

#### ble visions from a womb with

he womb might be thought to be fic-tion's final frontier. Conceptions are authors, most recently Harold Brodkey, have charted a course down the birth canal. Now, taking the novel's quest for heavy sea-horse" into a recognisable Fuller's A Skin Diary features a foetuseye view of the world Displaying an intelligence and sensi-

most fanatical pro-Lifer, Fuller's foetus

addresses his mother, Mair, throughout

Michael Arditti on an infant prodigy commonplace. Some adventurous A Skin Diary by John Fuller, Chatto, £9.99 He marries a highly specific sense of

novelty to its innermost limits. John human form. At the same time, he is a privileged observer of the sexual conflict of her Wanderer. Like the Manichee to father, Gruffudd, mistrusting his dualism of male and female, good and bility which would astound even the mother's fidelity, leaves home.

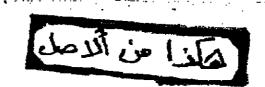
Fuller has rooted his story in a 19th cen-

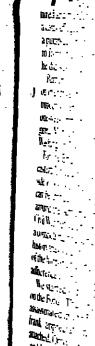
body evoking the landscape of the Valleys) and Penelope waiting for the return

evil, and light and dark. The richest of all these archetypal laytury Welsh farming community, where the ers concerns the birth of Christ. Christ-

Mair and Gruffudd are Mary and Joseph; there is even an angel, albeit a primarily meaning. Who could be a more omniscient narrator than Christ? Like Christ, which unfolds around him, when his which he alludes, Fuller propounds a both the ancient of days and an individdences with the gospels aren't compre-hensive (Gruffudd, unlike Joseph, is the baby's true father). Fuller has no wish to the nine-month cycle of her pregnancy, as he develops from "a wink that might as he develops from a wink that might are not sometimes and the control of the baby is control of the baby limit Christ to one incarnation. He implies

The central image of the novel is the there is even an angel, albeit a primarily word made flesh (the focus is a "baby" bible") – not only the essence of the period with a mythic drama in which Mair is both Earth Mother (the contours of her body evoking the landscape of the Value of the could be a more or only the essence of the contours of her body evoking the landscape of the Value of the could be a more or only the essence of the contours of her body evoking the landscape of the Value of the contours of the story with a succession of righly associa-tive metaphors ... the focus leaking like. the foetus inhabits a double time-scale as both the ancient of days and an individual being. Nevertheless, the correspondences with the gospels arms, the foetus metaphors in the foetus metaphor metaphors in the foetus metaphors in the foetus metaphor metaphors in the foetus metaphor metaphor metaphors in the foetus metaphor meta truth of a world-view where, in the fortus's phrase, "I have a sense that every thing is related". This wealth of inter-connection gives this 150 mage novel the lexture of one three times its length.





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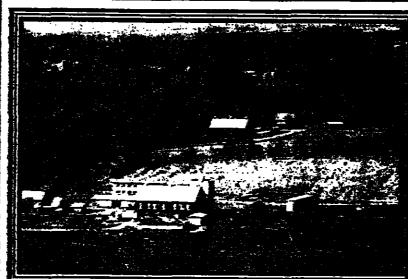
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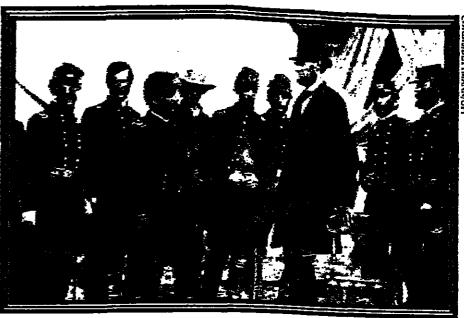
# THE WEEKEND !

# travel & outdoors











## Where John Brown's body lies a' mouldering in the grave

Guy de la Bédoyère is moved by the haunted landscape of the Civil War



Pick of the week

back roads of West Virginia to remind you of that great movie Deliverance, in which Burt Reynolds and his townie mates go hunting and get variously tor-tured and murdered by crazed billbillies. So when a camouflaged man wearing shades and carrying a pump-action shotgun strolled out of the woods in front of us, we nearly passed out. In fact, all

he did was wave. Perhaps it was just that our imaginations were on overdrive, finding feverish inspiration in the one-week trip around the Civil War sites of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, beginning in

Washington DC. For the English, the unpalatable fact about the eastern United States is that much of the countryside looks like the England of our fantasies. So it can be difficult to believe how much of the land around the American capital was torn apart by the Civil War between 1861 and 1865. The conflict has a compelling presence not just because "it's all the history they've got", but also because of the potency of the horror and the South's curiously charismatic adherence to the obscene creed of slavery.

We started off in DC, where we concentrated on the Ford's Theatre. It was here that Lincoln was assassinated in 1865. Americans have a gloriously frank appreciation of events, and no guilt is attached. Obviously, you would want to see the gun and Lincoln's stained jacket. Who wouldn't? So there they are in the free basement museum, along with a battery of other Lincoln paraphernalia.

Before making for the battlefields we wended our way across the stunning Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and then around eastern Maryland. After that we doubled back on the western shore of the hay to stay a day in Baltimore. The special features here are: a) no road signs, and b) an incoherent one-way system. One-way to the ghetto, as it turned out. Feeling slightly self-conscious in our hired car, we tried to make head or tail of the road map as the tension rose. The few shops looked like secured ammunition dumps and bonfires were

blazing merrily in rubbish bins. If you survive, and make it back to Downtown Baltimore, you find mainly aquatic attractions: an aquarium (said to be the best in the US, and it was quite good) and the last ship (out of 101) ation followed.

here's nothing like getting lost in the still in the water of those at Pearl Harbour, the Roger B Taney. The Civil War trail is kept warm by the USS Constellation, built in 1854, the only

ship left that saw service in the Civil War. From Baltimore we headed north. The Civil War battlefields are generally in the guardianship of the National Parks Service, and have museums with presentations and self-guided driving tours. Once I had shed the Englishman's shame at being a tourist, I lapped it all up.

Gettysburg is a totally unprepossessing town in

VIRGINIA

By far the most touching exhibit is a water bottle from the war. Attached to it is a label recording how its owner, John D Cooke - a Unionist of the 95th Pennsylvania Regiment – gave a dying Confederate a drink from it at Crampton's Pass, Maryland, on 14 September 1862. It was signed by the 95-year-old Cooke in 1934.

The Gettysburg tour lasts several miles down winding roads that are lined, incongruously, with various monuments to the units and individuals who fought here. The climax is undoubtedly the

Pennsylvania. The battlefield spreads to the south. Little Round Top, a small hill held by the Union implicit violence of our trail. We were taking a west and east of the town and is focused on the against impossible odds, from Confederates lurk-PENNS YLVANIA NEW JERSEY

> dimly lit, museum crammed with military relics, many of which were gathered laboriously from the fields by local farmers. The centrepiece is the "Electric Map" which, with recorded commentary, illustrates the battle's three-day progress in July

1863 with coloured red, blue and green lights. Not everyone was convinced. I overheard a man (British, by the way) becoming annoyed with his wife: "You didn't pay attention." "I did." "Well what happened then?" "Lots of little green men were hiding in the woods." An exasperated exhal-

Visitors' Centre. This features an elaborate, if ing below in the peculiar rock formation called the Devil's Den.

DELAWARE

It was particularly striking to listen to the American visitors. Contrary to the European perception of the American tourist, they seemed universally interested and well read on the site. None, so far as I could see, felt the need to lock their cars at the various stops, and I couldn't spot any litter, either. But it is an American shrine, a memorial to the Union, to Lincoln and his Address, and to the folly of the South. Once beaten here, they never ventured into the north again. So perhaps it attracts the more discerning visitor. In The Lost

Continent Bill Bryson describes it as the most shamelessly commercialised battle site. I have to say that that isn't how it appeared to me at all; instead I found it rather dignified and shocking. Not far to the south is Harper's Ferry, a small

town which was once a major industrial and armsmanufacturing centre because of river power. Here the mighty Shenandoah meets the Potomac, and the states of Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia stare at each other across the rapids. The place is truly startling for its beauty.

Floods destroyed the last industry here back in the Thirties. But the National Parks Service has done an exceptionally good job of presenting the site, with demonstrations of gun-making and an outstanding audio-visual on John Brown's famous raid here in October 1859, which sparked off the war. He took a band of associates to liberate the slaves but succeeded only in killing a free black. In the ensuing battle with the US army, two of his own sons were killed.

Some shops here sell Civil War souvenirs, including bullets gathered from the battlefields. By some perverse set of values, an unfired bullet costs about \$10, whereas a battered, fired example costs only \$1.50. I can't imagine that anyone makes bullets now and then hits them to reduce their value, so I assume they're genuine. Enough were fired, after all.

On the way back to Washington Dulles airport we also visited the battlefield at Antietam; like Gettysburg it features self-guided tours and museums. At Antietam more than 23,000 troops were killed or wounded on a single day in 1862. If you ever thought ignorance was the excuse for the First World War, then the American Civil War teaches you that there was no excuse, no excuse at all.

British Airways, United Airlines and Virgin Atlantic fly daily between Heathrow and Washington Dulles. Guy de la Bédoyère paid £309 (including tax) for a United flight. Options for travel in the next few weeks from Heathrow include: £314.30 return on United through STA Travel (0171-361 6161), for students and travellers under 26; £326 on Air France via Paris with Flightwise (01476 560089); £345 on British Airways through Major Travel (0171-485 7017). Washington DC Convention and Visitors' Association: 0181-392 9187; Virginia Tourism: 0181-651

#### Abraham Lincoln and the American Civil War

■ 1860 - Amid mounting North/South tension over slavery and other issues, Abraham Lincoln wins the presidential election. In December, South Carolina secedes from the United States. 🕿 1861 – In January, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana also secede - and form the Confederate States of America (joined by Texas and, later,

Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee). In March Lincoln makes his inaugural speech calling for the preservation of the Union and warning that full power will be used to keep all forts belonging to the federal government. In April Confederate troops attack and capture Fort Sumter, a Union garrison in South Carolina. The Civil War begins.

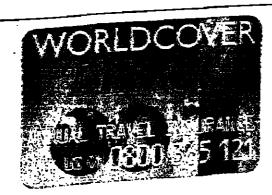
■ July 1861 – Union troops are defeated at the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas). 17 September 1862 - Battle of Antietam turns into the bloodiest day of the Civil War with 2,000 Northerners and 2,700 Southerners killed. Victory claimed by the Union. Five days later Lincoln issues a preliminary order to free all slaves.

July 1863 – Battle of Gettysburg lasts three days and is a turning point for the Union. In November, at a ceremony on the battlefield, Lincoln delivers his famous Gettysburg Address " ... government of the people, by the people, for the people ... "
April 1865 – Confederate General Robert
Lee surrenders, and Lincoln welcomes Louisiana back into the Union. Three days later Lincoln is assassinated at Ford's Theatre, Washington, by an actor and Southern sympathiser. May 1865 – the last of the Southern

troops finally surrender.



In which I say goodbye to a 17th-century ferry service that gave so many a taste of Abroad



t 10 o'clock last Monday A morning, the mayor stood on the Halfpenny Pier at Harwich to say farewell. Stena Europe, the last conventional ferry to sail between the Hook of Holland and the Essex port hooted as she slid mournfully past, destination oblivion (see page 11). The farewell party comprised His Worship, me, a photographer, and a Scandinavian hiker who is about to walk around the coast of Britain and coincidentally chose to depart at the same instant as a maritime legend.

In fact, the photographer and the mayor were present to wish the hiker well, rather than to mourn the end of an epoch. So I paid my own private respects to a ferry service that began in the 17th century and has since borne many millions of British travellers across the North Sea for

their first taste of Abroad. Since I wasn't around in 1671, my acquaintance with the Harwich-to-Hook ferry began in the Seventies, when it was the impecunious young traveller's best bet for a quick(ish) getaway. With a ticket from the

Transalpino agency, you could travel from London to any station in Holland for £6. Even the most dazed of hippies realised that this was a tremendous deal: travelling on the overnight boat meant you (a) saved on accommodation and (b) arrived at Oldenzaal, the last station in Holland before the German border, in time for a full day's hitching. You could be in Hanover by teatime for an outlay equivalent to a couple of Led Zeppelin LPs.

Cut-price crossings to the Continent have always been a British speciality. Philip Robinson of Sheffield reports that his first flight was aboard a Skywings plane between Lympne in Kent and Beauvais in northern France in the summer of 1963. It was such a good experience that he repeated it the following year.

At around the same time, Silver City Airways operated a car-carrying freighter between the Kent airfield and Le Touquet - your Vauxhall Victor or Humber Super Snipe was loaded into the cavernous hold of a propeller plane for the short hop.

It wasn't cheap, but if you could afford a car then you could probably afford to fly it to Europe.

Ten years later, the cheapskate's fast track to Paris rejoiced in the name "Silver Arrow" - a marketing trick involving a regular old Southern Region train to Gatwick airport, a cramped old twin-prop plane for a 20-minute hop to Le Touquet, and a diesel train for the long, 150-mile chug into Paris. The process seemed to take most of the day, but you saved a fortune compared with the new-fangled

Trident plane to Le Bourget Then the going got weird. Does anyone admit to having travelled on the air-bus deal to Ostend? You caught a coach from Aldgate bus station in London to Southend airport, where you boarded a Viscount plane to the Belgian resort. Strangely, that route never caught on. Neither did the attempt to persuade us that the sophisticated way to reach Paris was to catch a train to Southampton, sail across to Le Havre on the overnight ferry and travel onwards by rail.

If you were really poor but really keen to get to Ireland, then the way to go was on the small ferry between Campbeltown in Scotland and Ballycastle in Northern Ireland. This involved about 300 miles of extra hitching compared with the more usual ferries across the Irish Sea, but saved you a very small fortune. The one-way fare being charged when it closed was, I think, 85 pence. When, on 1 July, the Argyll and Antrim Steam Packet Company resumes sailing on the route, the passenger

fare will be £23 one-way. Happily, British determination to get Abroad for less is unbending. From next Thursday, a flight from Stansted to Nyköping in Sweden is £104 return on Ryanair. If Nyköping has yet to feature on your wish-list of destinations, you should know that it is 60 miles southwest of Stockholm.

The same airline may soon launch services to those great international gateways of Charleroi and Beauvais. masquerading as Brussels and Paris and feeding the British appetite for that satisfying combination of obscurity and economy.



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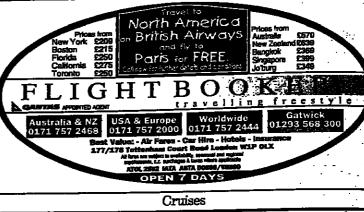
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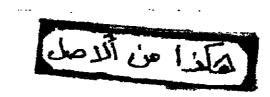
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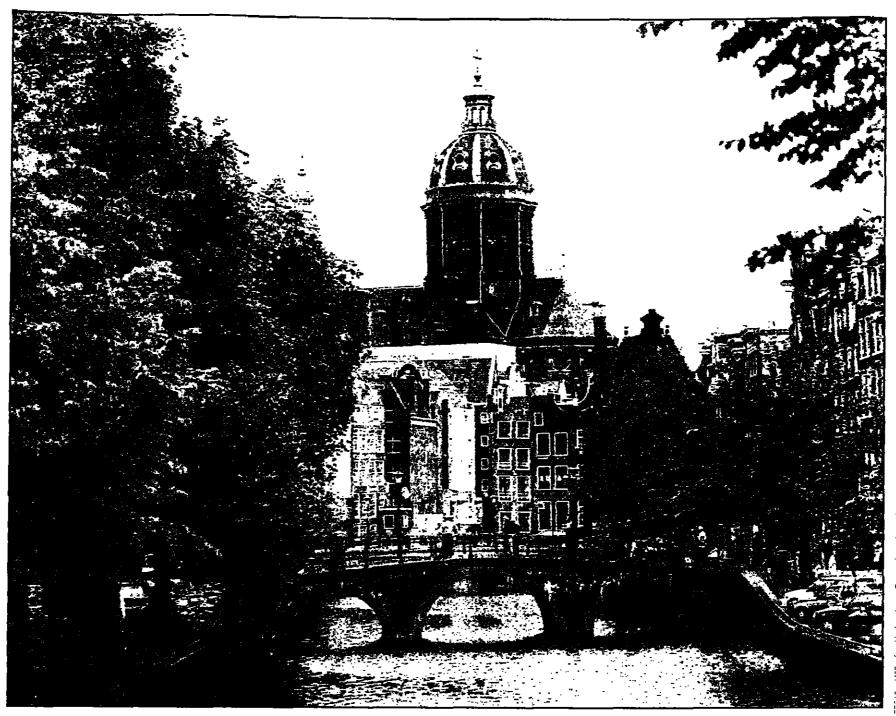
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# Smoke on the water

Even at sea level your head is in the clouds if your destination's Amsterdam. Simon Calder takes the new high-speed ferry from Harwich to the Hook of Holland

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concluded: "Stena HSS Discovery - the only way to cross the North Sean.

choose from ships operated by Color Linc, P&O and Scandinavian Seaways, plus plenty of low-cost flights. Which why the old ferry service from Harwich to Hook of Holland was replaced by an HSS catamaran. The initials stand for knots, the vessel halves the previous across the North Sea. crossing time. She also takes only 50 people to operate - one-quarter of the number working on the two ferries that she

The service subtly changes the shape of Europe, particularly for motorists who do not live in southern England. Suddenly, Europe is less than four hours connections from the new evening sailaway from Essex - no longer is it quicker ing arrive in Amsterdam in the early

veryone would earn a certificate one of the short sea crossings. Even commemorating their part in the first voyage of the hi-tech, high-speed vessel, promised the commemorating their part in those in and around London can benefit from the new link for trips to northern Germany or Scandinavia. Best of all, cheery Dutch announcer. She it should lead to heightened interest in the Netherlands.

Within 15 minutes of driving off the That is, of course, tosh. Travellers ferry you can be in The Hague, where crossing the North Sea these days can the twee cuteness of the old town is neatly countered by the outstanding breadth and depth of art in the 17th-century Mauritshuis. Madurodam, "Holland in miniature", is a lot more fun than it sounds. And on the coast, the resort of Scheveningen is a jolly high-speed sea service; cruising at 40 echo of Great Yarmouth, diametrically

> its surroundings merely as a gateway to the Continent will benefit from the shorter crossing times, though the timings of the new rail connections in Holland make some yearn for the civilised schedule of an overnight service: rail

Station area is at its most enticing.

An airline-style check-in has been introduced: passengers no longer need to carry large bags aboard, because they are transported separately in large containers. Unfortunately the system has been accompanied by airport-style queues for check-in.

On board, the new, huge, high-speed catamaran is a lot more salubrious than the two ferries she replaces. Imagine an airport departure lounge, complete with bureaux de change, restaurants and fastfood outlets, drifting across the North Sea, and you get the picture. Prices for adequate grub are quoted in guilders, but translate to reasonable amounts: 80p for Foot passengers who see Hook and a coffee, £1.40 for a slab of pizza. A pair of cinemas screening new releases (Liar, Liar and Scream this week), and a disco on evening sailings, help to fill the jour-

The question is: what precisely is the journey time? The Stena timetable says it will take three hours and 40 minutes. The two crossings I made on Monday to drive to Dover or Folkestone and take hours, not a time when the Centraal took 10 minutes longer each way.

No one would be churlish enough to complain - except that the delays appear to be cumulative. Stena allows as little as 40 minutes to replace one consignment of cars and passengers with the next. At the end of the maiden voyage from Harwich, the turnaround at Hook of Holland took twice as long as allowed. So even though *Discovery* had begun the day on schedule, by the time the third voyage of the day ended she was running

minutes late. The vessel is operated by Stena Line Lange, to find out what had gone wrong.
"People have been trained for the faster turnaround, but as you would expect on the first day we had some teething problems. As you can understand, it's quite a change and we need some operational experience." What about the journey time? "We are now running ahead of time. On Wednesday afternoon, for example, the morning ferry from Har-

wich arrived 10 minutes early." With luck, that will mean no repetition of the strange experience I had at

Hook of Holland. I travelled on a "daytripper" ticket, price £19, which means that you reach Hook of Holland then turn around and come straight back. But you have to disembark at the port and get straight back on. The late arrival meant boarding had closed; I would have to stay overnight in Holland and return the next morning. Fortunately the Catch 22 was quickly resolved, and they let me back aboard.

But the knock-on effect of Monday's delay was felt even by innocent parties Holland BV; I called the boss, Pim de such as Norwich commuters. The Boat Train to London was obliged to wait for us, even though it was due to form the late-night train to Norfolk. Though I doubt any platform announcer would have the nerve to say so, the Norwich train genuinely departed late because of "operational difficulties in the Netherlands area".

> The Stena HSS can be booked through travel agents or direct on 0990 707070. A special "car plus five" fare of £68 return is available on certain sailings.

Peter Hedderly sailed off into a ship's sunset on the last Saturday night voyage aboard Stena Europe

"rom the deck we watched the departure, as the sun set and we slipped quietly out of port and into the history books. Down below we had a celebration à la carte dinner. The waiter, who'd been working the route for 23 years, said in a subdued voice as he presented our food, "Gentlemen, it is my pleasure to inform you that you is my pleasure to inform you that you are having the last supper" – with tears in his eyes. Many of the crew had been working the route since before I was born. Most are retiring, although some are going on to the freight ships (the new HSS is operated entirely from the Dutch side).

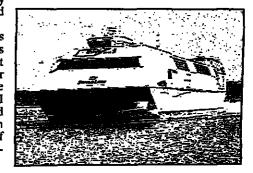
Harwich-Hook always was the route to the Continent or to Germany, at

to the Continent, or to Germany, at least - so much more civilised than Dover-Ostend. Until quite recently you could get on a through car at the Hook and step off that same car in Moscow, if you so wished. Services have been so rapidly cut back that, for the past few years, you couldn't even get to Cologne ithout a change.

We live in a rapidly changing world where nothing stands still. I'd say most of Hook route passengers are now bound for Amsterdam, or at least no farther than Holland; probably most of those going beyond will stop off in Amsterdam anyway.

So the new service has a lot to offer. You can now leave Amsterdam well after midday and still reach London that evening. You could never have done that before. With more people travelling than ever, this historic route must have good times ahead. But it will never be quite the same.

The writer is a compiler of the Thomas Cook European Timetable



Ocean ferry to canal boat: Amsterdam (top) is a four-hour trip from Essex when you take the high-speed, hi-tech Stena sel (above)

## Flying on Friday 13th?

Superstition may lead us to choose a flight on another day. But are our fears iustified? Ben Summers reports

t's Friday the 13th next week, but the planes will still be flying. Do superstitions apply in the air? Flying last Friday the 13th (December 1996) I found that they did.

Superstitions are not something people tend to boast about. One traveller I know carries a good luck charm in the shape of a small golden pig, which she holds tightly during take-off and landing. There must be thousands like her. Others will demand to sit in the back of the plane, something which has not been shown to improve your chances in the event of a crash - and then stubbornly study the carpet pattern or read the in-flight magazine as the safety drill is demonstrated by the cabin crew.

Even those coolly logical pilots are prone to the occasional irrational thought. The aviation writer Steven Barlay recalls a pilot he knew who added a ritual to his inspection of the aircraft before take-off. "There was one particular spot he always had to touch," says Barlay. "I think it was on the top left-hand side of the opening. He was not afraid of flying; he was not worried about it at all. But he would do it every time."

And could it be that Boeing's love for the number seven has anything to do with its traditional status as a lucky number? Would generations of Americans have been just

as happy flying in a Boeing 666?

Manufacturers and airlines usually take no position on such issues. None admits to supersti-tion among their staff. Of those we questioned, Qantas was in the vanguard of the rational flight. Not only did the company insist that none of its crew or pilots considered themselves superstitious, the airline also assured us that no member of staff had heard of a passenger being superstitious before or during a flight. No Oantas passenger has, apparently, ever been wary of the number 13 in flight times, flight

numbers or seat row numbers. British Airways and Air France were happier to acknowledge superstition - among passengers, at least. On the question of whether there were Air France passengers who feared the number 13, a spokeswoman said: "Oh, I'm sure there are lots of people who'd prefer to take another flight rather than sit in seat 13."

the row numbers jump from 12 to 14. The airline also reports cases of passengers asking for boarding cards to be changed if they find the number 13 on them, and of bookings dipping on Friday the 13th. British Midland also avoids seat rows numbered 13: "I don't think they were ever introduced," said a spokes-woman, unafraid to acknowledge the X

Files factor. Later the conversation turned naturally to the spirit world. There are reports of BOARDING PASS the 'Teesside ghost'
up at Teesside

Titanic Airlines TO: ATLANIS Friday, June 13, 1997

Aircraft: Boeing 666 In Flight Movie: CRASH "It's actually at the

hotel that the crew stay

in; there have been incidents, apparently." If any airport were to be haunted, it should be Heathrow. A ghost is occasionally mentioned, but no one seems to know who or what it is a ghost of. Travellers on the 13th should be aware that there are plenty of candidates. Highwaymen used to be strung up along the length of the nearby Bath Road. Violent highway robbery around what is now Heathrow Airport was once so common that is now Heathrow Airport was once so common that is now ricaumow Amport was a minimum died wear. Happy landings.

To deal with this problem, BA has aircraft on which because his doctor was waylaid by another high-

wavman while coming to treat him. Then there is the dead village of Heathrow itself, complete with a Saxon temple, lying beneath the concrete of the airport runways. The site of Hounslow barracks is nearby, where a soldier called Private White was flogged to death, an event that led to the banning of flogging in the British army. Or perhaps the Heathrow ghost has something to do with the 60 travellers who were boiled in oil over the years at The Ostrich pub in Colnbrook village, three miles from present-day Heathrow. A landlord there during the 18th century had an excessively entrepreneurial outlook, and arranged a room in his inn so that wealthy tradesmen could be tipped from their beds while they slept, through a trapdoor and into a bubbling vat in the room below.

So modern-day passengers with feelings of impending doom should count their blessings. No longer do rapid descents through the airspace of Colnbrook tend to lead to disaster. But the fact remains that all airline passengers are travelling in a far odder way than those who stay on the ground. In 1910, a minister was telling the House of Commons: "We do not consider that aeroplanes will be of any possible use for war purposes." Ninety years on, our instincts still haven't got the measure of the activity. According to Dr Alan Roscoe, a physician specialising in aviation, 80 per cent of regular fliers have some apprehension when stepping on to an aircraft, on whatever

day of the year. This is fertile ground for year-round superstition, which also tends to be nourished by the extraordinary nature of the statistics surrounding air travel. Suffice it to say that you are far safer in an aircraft than in a car (by a factor of 82, in the latest US research). In preparation for this Friday the 13th, Independent researchers trawled back through all the air accident reports of the Nineties. It turns out that the number of people who have died in air crashes on Fridays the 13th this decade is

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National Bike Week begins today and continues until 15 June. Cycle-related events are taking place

Birmingham, for example, the Push Bikes organisation will be offering advice and can help you test-ride a recumbent bicycle in Victoria Square, between 10am and 3.30pm;

On Tuesday evening in London, a "Rebels and Radicals of the East End" tour promises to take cyclists around the former haunts of Stalin, Lenin and Trotsky on a kind of

socialism proficiency test. Turn up outside the Royal London Hospital on Whitechapel Road, London E1, at 7pm on 10 June; 0171-265 9095

The latest route in the National Cycle Network has opened unexpectedly early. The Hull to Harwich route

covers 163 miles of eastern England, passing through Lincoln, Kings Lynn, Norwich and Colchester. Maps are available from Sustrans, the charity

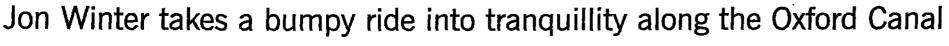
"West of the Hills" is the toughest of three bike routes around the Malvern Hills just published by the district council. It covers some of the ground where Edward Elgar cycled for inspiration earlier this century. For a free map and guide to the routes, call Malvern Hills tourist information centre on 01684

Two of the six best-buy bikes in a Which? survey last month were made in Britain: the hybrid Saracen Hy-way (£200) and the Raleigh M-Trax mountain bike (£270). The other four were all made in Taiwan.

that is creating the network; call 0117-929 0888.



## Water wheels



ames Starley has had to settle for being Coventry's second most famous resident. If he'd been an exhibitionist like Lady Godiva and ridden his newly patented lightweight penny-farthing naked through the city's streets, well, things might have turned out differently. As it is, Lady Godiva's statue stands in the city centre, and poor Mr Starley is stuck out next to Coventry's unsightly Ringway.

It seems appropriate that two-wheel enthusiasts embarking on an 83-mile canal-side ride from Starley's home town to Oxford should acknowledge the "father of the British bicycle industry". So, before setting off, pay a brief visit to Coventry's Road Transport Museum, which houses a huge collection of bicycles, ranging from Mr Starley's early models through to today's hi-tech machinery.

museum at the newly refurbished canal basin. Its through a long rural stretch where the canal's loose careful restoration paints an encouraging, but inaccurate, picture of what is to come farther along. more like a river. With just the watery wildlife and where you'll have to tackle unforgiving stretches the odd narrowboat for company, you find your- of Oxfordshire that a crow would fly only five to more appealing by an overwhelming desire to Geo Projects (01734 393 567). of rarely trodden, impossibly overgrown towpath that make for a bone-shaking ride.

you are treated to a canal-side tour of the city's once great industrial past. Plastic bottles, empty beer cans and this year's hatchlings bob about on the reflections of great redbrick piles that wouldn't look out of place on a Lowry canvas. (A former Coventry student, Tony Wheeler, this week upset the locals by describing the city as a "dismal" in his new Lonely Planet travel guide to Britain.)

The industrial demeanour, however, soon fades: duck under the M6 and make a right turn at Hawkesbury junction to join the Oxford Canal and scene from an inland waterways holiday brochure. On two wheels you'll breeze along this fast section, passing smiling families on gaily painted narrowboats enjoying life limited to 4mph.
Rugby's outer suburbs fade in and out without

The journey starts just a short spin from the ado. The pace soon settles to a steady pedal self beginning to share the feeling of freedom that cover. Cyclists, however, soon gain the psycholog-inspires so many to spend their holidays putter- ical edge as they pass Claydon Flight, from where The entire 83 miles of towpath make an absorb- 01788 890 666

Heading first north along the Coventry Canal, ing along Britain's network of canals. Cyclists ou are treated to a canal-side tour of the city's should make the most of this freedom while they nee great industrial past. Plastic bottles, empty can. Next month British Waterways plans to charge cyclists £12.50 for an annual adult permit cherwell, confirming the style of canal engineer to use the Kennet and Avon Canal towpath. setting a precedent that will be applied to all British Waterways canals in the near future, including the Coventry to Oxford towpath.

Nature gradually gains the upper hand as the trail becomes an overgrown, gruelling slog for the last few miles into Braunston, where The Boatman's canalside terrace appears like a shimmer-ing oasis. Built on the busy junction where the Grand Union Canal joins the Oxford Canal, it makes a perfect place to rehydrate and refuel in the company of other canal travellers.

Then on to Napton Flight and the first and only real incline on the ride, as the canal climbs 50 feet through a staircase of nine locks to its highest point (380 feet above sea level) before meandering wildly at this elevation for 12 miles across an area

James Brindley, whose hallmark became canals that follow the natural contours of the land. Brindley steers this course pretty much all the way into Oxford, leading you through some charming villages in the rolling hills of Oxfordshire's Cotswolds.

Approaching two-thirds of the distance, saddlesore cyclists should take advantage when civilisation reappears in Banbury ("ugly" is Mr Wheeler's one-word description), before making the last big

With a bit of luck, and not too many punctures, daylight will be just fading as you make your final approach into Oxford. These last few miles of towpath are mercifully smooth and you can sense that you are nearing the city limits by an increasing population of new-age barge dwellers lining the canal banks. It looks an attractive lifestyle, made all the

ing but fairly tough day's pedalling, perhaps more manageable if split up with an overnight stop at Banbury. Choice of wheels is also a consideration if you plan to cycle the whole route. The chunky tyres and general robustness of a mountain bike can prove useful through the hard-going terrain. If, however, you stick to the smooth, well-used sections through towns and villages, then any old bike will be adequate, although I wouldn't fancy my chances on one of Mr Starley's old clunkers.

A note on safety: Cycle helmets are advised as there are countless little brick bridges whose geometry is such that one lapse in concentration when ducking under them will leave you floating unconscious in the canal. Also, those wearing shorts must avoid encroaching nettles, although relief for stings can be found on the move by steering through the clumps of giant dock leaves that also line the towpath.

A Coventry to Oxford Canal map is available from .

Panama: "Due to the high crime rate visitors are advised to be on their guard when currying documents and money. Where possible these should be deposited in hotel safes. Take care on buses and at bus depots. Robberies have occurred in downtown Panama City (Avenida Central shopping area), and tourist spots at the Plaza de Francia and Old Panama ruins. There are occasional hold-ups in restaurants. Visitors are advised to register at the British Embassy (269 0866). Do not transit the Darien Peninsula to/ from Colombia" - Foreign Office.

Peru: "Although terrorist activity in Lima has dropped considerably

4.9



in the last several years, the car bomb that exploded at the municipal offices in Ate-Vitarte on 15 May 15 demonstrates the still very real danger of terrorist attacks in Lima. Virtually all bombings in recent years have

to declare

**Trouble spots** Latin America

occurred in the evening and early morning hours. The most popular targets have been banks, post offices, public utilities, Peruvian of Peruvian government employees, Two embassies, one hotel and one multinational corporation have been bombed in the last three years. Selective assassinations have been carried out against police officers and public officials, particularly in the poorer communities around Lima'

increase in thefts and robberies, sometimes involving violence. In Buenos Aires the most frequent problems involve bag-snatching and armed robberies in the street. in taxis and restaurants.

Be alert at all times: con-men have frequently robbed tourists while an accomplice pretends to help remove ketchup or mustard which has been 'accidentally' sprayed on them" - Foreign Office.

Guatemala: "Three highway bandits died after being lynched by villagers in the western

department of Huehuetenango. It was the latest in numerous incidents in the past 18 months in both Guatemala and Mexico in which citizens frustrated with inefficient and corrupt judicial systems have taken the law into their own hands" - AP.

Colombia: "The Colombian government has conceded for the first time that its security forces may have links with paramilitary groups. The government said it had lost control over large parts of its forces in areas where there was intense guerrilla and paramilitary activity. The government also said it agreed with US estimates that 250,000 soldiers and police offices

could be involved in human rights abuses" - BBC World Service.

Ecuador: "Ecuador has placed the Galapagos Islands under a state of emergency to prevent the nature reserve from losing its special United Nations status due to environmental deterioration. The measure seeks to limit human migration and the spread of alien species to the islands and preserve their environmental balance" ~ AP.

For Foreign Office advice, contact the Travel Advice Unit by telephoning 0171-238 4503 or 4504, or fax 0171-238 4545; on the Internet, at http://www.fco.gov.uk/cor on BBC-2 Cecfux, from page 470

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Gremlins struck our competition for two to win a week in Brazil If you have answers for the three questions, send them on a postcard to Rio/Indie Competition, Journey Latin America, 16 Devonshire Road, London W4 2HD. There are no more questions. We have extended the deadline for entries until Thursday June 12. Our apologies for

government offices, and the homes US State Department.

Argentina: "There has been an

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Kate Sturgess, Oxfordshire

The Garden of Eden, the food, the view and the knowledge of the island were greatly appreciated. PS: if ever in Canada, my home is your home - Erroll Hind, Calgary

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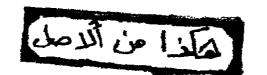
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applies, so you could end up paying £269 for the return trip. Book on 01293 789000: all travel must be completed by the end of June. A review of the service will appear in the travel pages of The Independent tabloid next Wednesday, 11 June.



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# A man, a plan, a canal

ou know the Volkswagen TV ad in which a dentist persuades his patient to open wider by mentioning how inexpensive a Golf is? The Panama canal is a bit like that. When you first glimpse the superstructure of a cruise liner floating serenely above a tropical rain-forest atop the Continental Divide, see if your jaw doesn't plummet into the tightly knotted undergrowth that binds the waist of Panama. The deep scar that the canal has carved through Central America makes the Channel Tunnel seem mere macaroni beneath the surface of the

The isthmus's importance was sealed one day in 1513, when Vasco Nuñez de Balboa led a straggle of Spanish colonists on a 27-day march from the Atlantic across to the Pacific. He was beheaded shortly afterwards, which diminished the thrill. But the journey pinpointed the short-est distance between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and Panama became the world's short cut.

Under Spanish rule, the isthmus was the transhipment route for all the riches of Peru and Bolivia - gold and silver were hauled across the spine of the Americas by mule to waiting galleons. But it was the growing prosperity of the US that created the canal. For much of the 19th century, the journey from the US castern seaboard to the West Coast required a long and dangerous voyage around Cape Horn or a messy boat-and-rail journey across Central America. The transcontinental railways helped, but the growth in world trade made it imperative to link the Pacific to the

by Ferdinand de Lesseps - the man who built the Suez canal - cost 22,000 lives and ended in failure. American engineers took over the project. They realised that the key was to eradicate malaria along the course of the canal, so that Chinese, Indian and African labourers imported for the task would live long enough for it to be completed. They did, and it was, in 1914.

two worlds - with all the terrifying power that replock, stock and reservoir to the people of Panama.

Let's hope they continue to reap its touristic as well as strategic potential. I have traversed Panama twice, each time along the Trans-Isthmian Highway (try saying that after half a dozen bottles of Soberana, the strong local beer that leaves you far from sober) which parallels the canal and of engineering, harmoniously ushering ships across a continent.

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Panama was the engineering miracle that changed the world by dividing a continent. By Simon Calder

a grandstand, you watch the painful process of guiding a freighter through a lock only just large enough to hold it. The work is done by "mules", tiny railway locomotives that resemble escapees from a child's train set as they struggle to manoeuvre the ship towering above them. While this spectacle unfolds, a tour guide bom-

bards you with figures. In its 83 years of existence, the canal has carried 80,000 vessels. Fees are calculated according to displacement; hence The first attempt, a grand projet orchestrated the lowest was 36 cents, paid in 1928 by a lone swimmer who successfully paddled from one ocean to the other. Today the average ship pays \$30,000 for what is described as a "quality transit service".

The canal is strung out between two of Central America's most atmospheric cities. Now this is a region where "atmospheric" is often used as a euphemism, and such is the case with Balboa The "Big Ditch" also constitutes a link between and Colon - respectively Pacific and Caribbean termini of the canal. Colon is a creaky old place

Just along the coast, though, the town of Portobelo is a collection of colonial ruins in an improbably beautiful location. For a century or two, the natural harbour at Portobelo - where Columbus's ship once sheltered - was about the richest place in the world. Nowadays, it is a beautiful and calm haven. The warehouses were gives access to the locks - themselves symphonies abandoned long ago, and the jungle is creeping up on the ruins. Portobelo these days trades only

Canal-watching is a spectator sport at Miraflores, the first set of locks after Panama City. From ent American suburb – basically because that's its jaw-dropping glory, is the finest means, with the finest ends, of them all.



The world's short cut - in the 83 years of its existence, the Panama Canal has carried 80,000 vessels

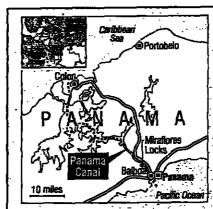
PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK SPOUNER

what it is. The capital of the Panama Canal is pure small town US - full of neatly cropped lawns, gumresents. So the US felt obliged to appropriate the territory through which it passes. But 12 hours before 1 January, 2000, it will be handed back before 1 January, 2000, it will be handed back as city for amateurs.

Where worn-out or burnt-out buildings are outnumbered only by curious characters; this is not a city for amateurs.

Small town US – full of neatly cropped lawns, gumnumbered only by curious characters; this is not accept though the town of Porural parent at noon on 31 December 1999, but

until then generates a million dollars a day in tolls. The Bridge of the Americas, carrying the Pan-American Highway, frames the mighty ships that jostle for the front of the queue through to the Atlantic, and marks a suitably grand entrance to the Pacific for vessels completing the southbound transit. This is truly one of the nodes of the world. Even if you stay on dry land, canals are excellent means to an end. And Panama, in all



#### Panama particulars

Getting there: there are no direct flights between the UK and Panama City. South American Experience (0171-976 5511) has flights on Cubana via Havana for £501; Avianca via Bogotá for £531; or on Iberia via Madrid for £1 more. All these fares include tax.

Further information: British passport holders do not require visas. Limited tourist information is available from the Consulate-General of Panama at Panama House, 40 Hertford Street. -Loudon W1Y 7TG (0171-409 2255).

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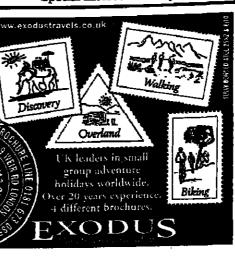
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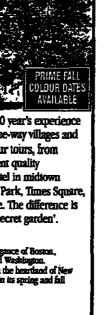
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# Yes, my knuckles Were white

John Windsor braved the king of roller-coasters on a daredevil day at Blackpool Pleasure Beach

een there. Done that. Up the 210ft steel tower of the Sony PlayStation in 1.5 seconds at 80 mph, clamped to a plastic seat, then down by free fall. Slowly up to the 235ft summit of the world's tallest and fastest roller-coaster, Pepsi Max Big One, then at 85 mph down the curves of its first drop, of the same height, at an angle of 65 degrees to the horizontal.

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My daredevil day at Blackpool Pleasure Beach was not the kind of outing I would have chosen myself. It presented itself as a challenge, after the author/publisher Richard Savin had sent me a copy of his White Knuckle Guide,

worth of money-off vouchers. He and his 12-year-old son Charles gave me a couple of hours' training on the Flying Fish roller-coaster and the all-dark backwards roller-coaster X:\No Way Out at Thorpe Park, Chertsey, Surrey.
These rides, only 21ft and 42ft high -

nursery slopes, according to coaster aficionados - were not seary enough to dent my bravado when the Thompson family, owners of Blackpool Pleasure Beach, invited me to this week's launch of the £2m PlayStation-The Ride, first UK example of a new breed of hi-tech catapults.

Just watching customers being whisked skywards by PlayStation's compressed air,



and listening to their post-ride remarks, put paid to my bravado: "Brilliant"; "Terrible"; That's really taken the shit out of me." Especially as I had tried the Big One roller-coaster as soon as I arrived, and had come off it numbed.

> you? You know you are in for it from the start, as the train of cars grinds inexorably towards the 235ft summit and people on the ground become dots.

> > You

strapped your seat, and there clamped at your chest. As

track ahead disappears sky, fused.

second notions that what is about to happen is both safe and inevitable are mingled with sheer terror.

me. The subsequent 65-degree dive, at 3.5 times the force of gravity, induced some-thing like brain-death. But it is over in seconds, hardly time enough to feel frightened - until you approach the next drop. and the next bend, for about a mile. Do

What does the Big One do to people really do this for fun? There's a technique to riding, as I learnt while watching 94-year-old Doris Thomp-son, chairman of the 101-year-old family business and an intrepid rider since the age of three, being locked into shoulder restraints and fired to the top of Play-Station. At my side, while Mrs Thompson's legs dangled higher than Nelson's column as we waited for a helicopter with a camera crew, was PlayStation's designer, Rich Allen of the S&S Sports Power corprestraining bar oration of Utah, US. The first time you ride, he explained, you tend to be watching your own responses. "But the more you do it, the more you open yourself to the experience. You become less terrified and get a feel for it."

> shot of my ride on the Big One showed me with head down, gripping for dear life: that white knuckle thing is no myth. But the lads who ride it time after time wave their arms (against advice), shout jubilantly on the crests and look around, even down. Participate: that's the knack,

> Upon descent, Mrs Thompson pro-

the certificates held by spe-

cialist instructors, and the 24-

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adventures in "Cyberzone",

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camp that opened near Wey-

tacled teenager who had just launched himself off a plat-

form 40ft above the ground.

Secured only by ropes, he flew

along the zip wire, cheered by

prefer to mellow out.

Nor is there any excuse for

first-time campers.

smooth". Smoothness is the thing, these "Coasters tend to be harsh and bumpy," Mr Allen said, "This ride is safe and smooth, with no whiplash and no strain on the muscles."

It does help to shout - as I had discovered earlier, aboard the Pleasure Beach's coaster Revolution, which loops the loop forwards then backwards. I enjoyed that. But it was the 1933 wooden ("woodie" to enthusiasts) rattletrap of a roller-coaster that gave me real confidence: height a mere 61 feet, maximum speed 35 mph, with no straps, just a grab bar. I leant forward into the drops and bends and yelled. After the Big One, there was nothing to it, really.

Nowadays, the cheap thrills of speed and height are no longer enough. It's a bit like sex: ride enthusiasts seem to be divided into old-fashioned macho mechanics, and new-age sensualists. The sensualists are in the ascendant. This became clear when, before visit-

It made sense. The automatic camera ing Blackpool, I spoke to Britain's foremost ride designer, John Wardley, 46vear-old "imagineer" of rides at the Tussaud group's theme parks: Alton Towers, Chessington World of Adventures, and Port Aventura in Spain. His background is special effects for plays and films; his Nemesis ride at Alton Towers by no means the fastest or the highest - Riding for a fall: John Windsor takes the plunge PHOTOGRAPH, ADRIAN DENNIS

#### Roll on

Andrew Hine, founder of the Roller-coaster Club of Great Britain, says you are 2,000 times more likely to have an accident on a flight to the United States than on a roller-coaster ride. And that two hours of normal home life is 10 times more accident-prone. It is horrified health and safety officials who have forced pleasure rides to become even safer than public transport. Which is why, even though high-speed high-rides may horrify you, you may soon find them hard to avoid. Mr Savin, publisher of The White Knuckle Guide, has formed a company to promote "variable level rail systems" as safe, speedy and cheap public transport. Eight are already operating, including systems at Birmingham and Gatwick airports and nine more are planned. So why not find yourself a nice old-fashioned woodie and get in training?

of the Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain and American coaster enthusiasts Riders of Nemesis are suspended beneath the track, with legs dangling. Ma Wardley says: "You get the extraordinary feeling that there is nothing between your feet and the ground - and ther nothing between your feet and the sky.

I'm not interested in the industry blinkered view that the only way forward is through statistics of height, speed and g-force. If people get off one of my rides and say, 'that was terrifying, I wish I hadn' done it', then I consider that I've failed I'm not out to terrify people. I'm an enterlainer. I want to exhilarate them. Rider should provide surprise, mystery, laugh-ter, amazement. His latest ride, at Port Aventura, is Stampida, a woodie whose twin racing trains seem about to collide head-on after switching directions in a

The second edition of the White Knuckle Guide', price £2.99, with £500 in vouchers, is published on 23 June by Tideway Publicutions, PO Box 107, Guildford, Surrey GU1 IFQ. Send sae 10 The Roller Coaster Club of Great Britain, PO Box 235, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB10 OTF.

Blackpool Pleasure Beach, entry free, rides £1 to £4 (Pepsi Max Big One). Ocean Boulevard. Blackpool FY4 IEZ (01253-341033). Thorpe Park, Staines Road, Chertsey, Surrev KT16 8PN (01932 569393). Alton Towers, Alton. Staffordshire ST10 4DB (0990 20 40 60, or 01538-702200). Chessington World of Adventures, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2NE (01372-727227 and 01372 729560), Oakwood Park, Oakwood, Canas ton Bridge, Narbeth, Pembrokeshire SA63 8DE (01834-891376, bookings 01834 891373). Drayton Manor Park and Zoo near Tamworth, Staffordshire B78 3TW

#### 'Quad biking was brill; abseiling was brill'

summer camp is the British have traditionally preferred to drag the kids on holiday with us, like it or not. And "not" is often the response of the bored 10-to-18-year-old.

Goal

So what makes the British so reluctant to offload their offspring for some parent-free adventure? According to Lloyd Smith, managing director of Superchoice, an activity specialist which is expanding its American-style camps, middle-class guilt is the main culprit. American parents

)

want their kids to miss out on American way. We this wonderful experience which they grew up with," he says. "British parents talk of 'sending children away', rather than of giving them a chance

to experience something new," In a society that makes working mothers feel they are doing less than their duty, it may seem churlish to suggest that junior school children would benefit from even more time away from home. And what about homesickness? Is it worth the risk, in the name of holiday fun?

#### Dacking children off to take the view that they don't Overcoming British guilt, Deborah Jackson sent her daughter to summer camp

My daughter Frances was was brill - and archery and "sent away" to summer camp for the first time at the age of eight - an experience that held no trepidation for her, but left me feeling lost and apologetic when friends asked where

she'd gone. She telephoned after a few days, and in the space of 20p reeled off an exhausting programme: "Quad biking - that was brill - and abseiling - that

Dragon Quest - cool - and laser quest ... sorry, got to go now, Mum." "Would you like me to call you back?" I asked , trying to hide the emotion. "Well, not really, we've got a swimming gala, bye!"

Frances summer-camped again this year, but the ritual telephone call began quite differently: "Hello, Mum," said a plaintive voice, "I've got tummy ache and I've hurt my foot." "Oh dear," I said, "Do you want me to come and fetch you?" "Oh yes," she said, sounding suddenly cheerful. "Come on Saturday." (This was my scheduled pickup day - it was then Tuesday.)
"Got to go," she added, "it's

brill! We're going trampolin-Frances has always gone with her best friend, but according to Andy Clague, Superchoice's summer camp co-ordinator, nearly 60 per cent of last year's intake came on their own. As for homesickness, they promise a prorata refund if a child has failed to settle in after two nights. The thing is to stop homesickness before it starts," says Andy. "It's all to do with how you introduce them - the child who arrives last doesn't get the choice of bed, and may start to feel left out. We look out for

things like that. "Last year, 1,500 children came to our camp. Little Canada. Of those, 14 went home due to homesickness. Some parents insist the child stays, whatever, others will be in the car before the child has put the phone down. One parent turned up at 11.30pm to collect his son without even saying be was coming. His son

was absolutely fine. Negatives about summer camp are mostly on the parents' side. Fears about safety and lack of supervision dog the anxious British parent, despite Henry!" they called. "How did that feel?" I asked

him as he landed near my feet. "Great," he grinned. "Henry is 14; this is his first

camp," said the instructor. "He was booked in for a Mega Mix holiday, which his mum thought would suit him better as it's less demanding, but because of the numbers, he joined our Teen Challenge. He's having a fantastic time."

Henry had just shot up in the esteem of his team mates, and, no doubt, his own. Way to

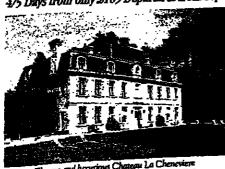
Superchoice offers Internet Residential summer camps operate throughout the summer holidays at sites throughout Britain. Escort services and Visiting Osmington Bay, the short breaks are usually availnew Superchoice summer able and special diets catered for. One week's junior multi-activity costs £259 to £299, mouth this year, I stopped to depending on accommodation: admire the skills of a bespecdiscounts for early birds and siblines. Details from Superchoice (01273 691100); PGL (01989 768768); Camp Beaumont (0171-724 2233).



wall: Henry on the high ropes at Osmington Weymouth PHOTOGRAPH DEBORAH **IACKSON** 

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# The ultimate herbal remedy

#### From headaches to hedges: Anna Pavord discovers the cure-all qualities of germander

two hours later, find that you have tied in a rose instead. You psych yourself up to weedkill an overgrown path, and on the way to get the watering-can you are diverted by the plight of young aquilegias drowned out by goosegrass. Recently, we set out to make a hazel tunnel and found ourselves with a herb garden.
It happened like this. I wanted a tun-

nel made of hazel poles to span the central path through the vegetable garden, a straight path that ends in a door set into a high stone wall. The tunnel was to be covered in runner beans, French beans and sweet peas; we made it with whippy hazel poles bent over in a series of hoops. These are joined up by a series of horizontal poles so that the whole structure makes a grid of roughly 18-in squares. The grass path that it arches over is about 4ft wide.

I hadn't realised that the effect of the tunnel, which you approach head-on from the house, would be to focus your eye on what happened at the far end of it. We slapped some paint on the old door and pulled a rod of the vine planted against the wall to fix over the top of the door. But it wasn't enough.

The bottom border that runs under the wall in the kitchen garden is about 9ft wide and faces south. I've always used it for crops, such as tomatoes, sweet corn, French beans and peppers, that appreciate the sun. There was also a random collection of herby things: rosemary, thyme, sage and tarragon, not planted in any particular order. But the tunnel in an odd way created

order, and demanded more order at its end. The crops I've been growing in that south-facing border don't get set out until the end of May, so for a long period it is almost empty.

The herbs were the starting-point. I

wondered about planting old-fashioned box hedges round the borders to contain fashion in rows of one, two and three.

t's odd how one thing leads to another in the garden. You go out intending to prune the forsythia and, series of X-shaped hedges of germander. They join up to make a formal pattern of diamonds and triangles, finishing at the cold frame at the far end of the border. Gradually, I've been filling the spaces with

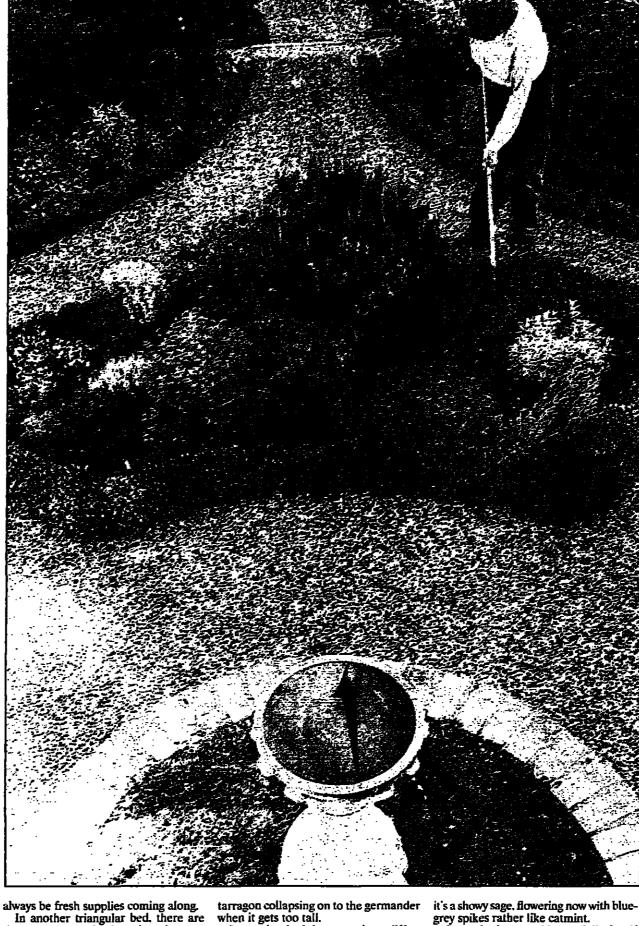
Germander, Teucrium x lucidrys, is a neat little herb, evergreen, growing eventually to about 18 in high, with tiny, lobed leaves and pinkish-purple flowers which continue from midsummer to early autumn. Culpeper, the great herbalist, said it "strengthens the brain and apprehension exceedingly when weak and relieves them when drooping". I can do with that. Germander was the medieval aspirin, widely used to cure anything, including dropsy, coughs, headaches and

I like it because it is more relaxed than box. Box would have forced me to cut the grass edges around it and prop the tomatoes up snooty commissionaires. Germander is easy to strike from cuttings, set round the edge of a 5-in pot or dibbled straight into the ground. It can be lightly trimmed in spring or autumn. It is hardy in winter and does not need watering in summer. That's a bonus. Nor is it as

greedy as box.

To highlight the two X shapes that lie either side of the end of the tunnel, I planted a bay tree with a clipped round head where the arms of the X crossed. Clay drainpipes, set on end at each of the four corners, are planted with thyme which will also be clipped into globes. The thyme can be grown from seed sprinkled straight on to the compost in the drains. I used upright bush thyme (Marshalls,

That gave the structure that the empty beds were missing up to now. Filled, the various triangles and diamonds create blocks of planting that make more impact than the usual rows. I've got six clumps of chives in one triangle, planted pyramid vear. I'll try to re



In another triangular bed, there are three rosemary bushes, bought very cheaply from the Columbia Road market in London. In a third, I have replanted some of the tarragon that was originally growing in the south bed. That

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In another bed there are three different sorts of sage, one the common cooking sage, Salvia officinalis, one a purpleleaved kind, and the third a Balkan sage. When I bought it, each leaf had a dis-tinctive booked indentation. That doesn't planting standard rosemary bushes - down one clump each week, so there will encourages fresh growth and will stop the show on the growth it has made since, but shoots) and in summer, when the plants BS12 25Y (01454 418878).

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Sages don't grow old gracefully, but if you prune them regularly you can slow down the process of their becoming impossibly woody and gangling. The pruning is best done twice a year, in

an update on

Newton-Golding

Northamptonshire house, formerly a

family, whose

surrounded by

inches-thick

farm, was

the difficulties faced by the

concrete. They were looking for ways to

is also made on the site of a concrete

transform the concrete into a garden. Diana Rothenstein from Braintree writes with an

ingenious answer to the problem. Her garden

farmyard, though a sloping one. "I first built

and one half-way up the slope. I have no masonry skills, so it was just bricks set side by

side in a bit of cement with a few gaps left for

the water to run through. Then I ordered two

in road building. It sounds a lot, but they were

merchant. I trundled them through the garden and tipped them over the concrete and

tons of pebbles. Not gravel; that's too fine. The pebbles I had are what they use as ballast

incredibly cheap, from a big builder's

two little retaining walls, one at the bottom

More than medicinal: the well-established germander hedges at Coton Manor in Northamptonshire

PHOTOGRAPH: RUI VIERA

have finished flowering (to stop the growths getting too leggy). Sometimes you can rejuvenate an old plant by cutting it hard back in spring, but they don't always respond.

Some of the triangles are filled with herbs sown direct from seed. Not parsley. That prefers a moist soil and some shade, so I generally grow it in a side border. Parsley seeds are notoriously slow to germinate; if you sow in June you have the best chance of getting parsley to last right through to the end of the following year. before it runs up to seed.

But I've put coriander in the new herb patch, choosing 'Cilantro' (Suffolk Herbs, 85p), which gives the maximum amount of leaf. If you want seed, go for Moroc-can coriander (Suffolk Herbs, 85p) which is quick to bolt. Coriander seed is best sown direct where it is to grow. Like most of the umbelliferae family (parsley and carrot are fellow members) it hates being disturbed. It will leap straight up to seed if it is transplanted. It germinates much faster than parsley, usually between seven and 10 days.

I've also sown a salad mix known as Misticanza (Chiltern Seeds, 99p), with lettuce, chicory, rocket and watercress in it. It's a cut-and-come-again crop, which you scissor off like mustard and cress. If you cut just above the first pair of seedling leaves, the plants go on resprouting all through the summer. You shouldn't ever let them get more than about 3 in tall. Suffolk Herbs sells a similar mixture called 'Miscuglio', made up of different chicories and radicchios, which you sow and harvest in the same way.

S E Marshall & Co, Wisbech, Cambridgeshire PE13 2RF (01945 406 711), Suffolk Herbs, Monks Farm, Coggeshall Road, Kelvedon, Essex CO5 9PG (01376 572456), Chiltern Seeds, Bortree Stile, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 7PB (01229) 581137). Germander, sage and a wide variety of other herbs are available (mail order only) from Jekka's Herb Farm, Rose

Weekend

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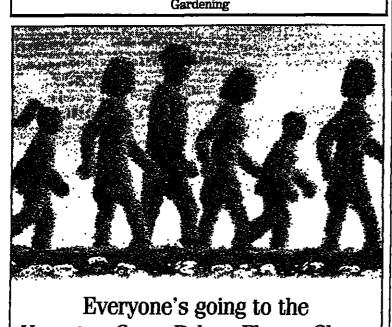
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instantly it transformed itself into an interesting beach. I had some big flints dug up in the garden, and they went in too. Into this I have planted any little alpine or seashore plant simply by cutting the bottom off its pot and pushing it into the pebbles. Some of them have died. Others, such as hebe and thrift, have thrived year after year. I think the lesson I have learned is to keep the area absolutely soilless, so weeds don't grow." The Alpine Garden Society is holding its summer show today (11.30am-4.30pm) at Merrist Wood College, Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey. There will be displays of saxifrage, campanulas, lewisias, orchids, dwarf daphnes, ferns, sedums and sempervivums. Tel: 01608 684416

Portland roses, like the rich, warm pink 'Comte de Chambord' and the fabulously scented 'Rose de Rescht' were favourites of Napoleon's Empress Josephine. English Heritage is putting together the only complete collection of Portland roses in the country at Brodsworth Hall, its property in south Yorkshire. The roscs were named after the Duchess of Portland, though they were first bred in France in the 1790s. As many as 23 varieties will be planted in the Quarry Garden where Brodsworth's first rose garden was created more than 100 years ago by head gardener, Samuel Taylor. Brodsworth Hall, six miles north west of Doncaster, is open Tucs-Sun (12pm-6pm) Admission to garden, £2,50 (house and garden combined, £4.50).

Anna Pavord

#### Weekend work

promising line of peas has been nibbled down to the quick in my garden. Cover sowings with netting and continue to protect young pea plants from rabbits. pigeons, slugs, pea weevils and all the other creatures that like peas as much as we do.

If you garden in a dry area, souse drills well with water before sowing. Newly-planted-out annuals will need nursing along before they get established. Water and feed them

well, and protect them from slugs. Clip hedges such as Leyland cypress and privet regularly, to contain growth and prevent themspreading too wide. Cover crops of strawberries with netting to protect them from birds. Dead-head pansies and violas regularly, to prolong the

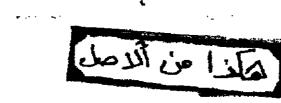
Sow French beans in situ. The soil is warm enough for them now, but they will need to be well watered to germinate. I had good results from Slenderway (Johnsons, £1.45) last year, and am growing it again this season. The creamy yellow beans are stringless, juicy and well flavoured. I'm also sowing 'The Prince' (Unwins, £1.59) a flat-podded variety

that you need to pick young.

Hoe regularly to keep on top of weed seedlings. Onions particularly hate competition from weeds Asparagus beds should be picked over regularly and kept free from

Prune overgrown specimens of American current, (Riber sanguineum), choisya; kerria and exochorda. Take out a third of the stems at ground level.

Keep an eye on the wandering tendrils of clematis and tuck them into supports, well spread out so that the new shoots do not get tangled up in a bunch. The newest clematis in our garden is the pink 'Bee's Jubilee'. which is growing through chicken wire wound round one of the poles of the pergola. Its companion is a white perennial sweet pea. Lathynus latifolius 'White Pearl', grown last year from seed (Thompson and Morgan, £1.39).



Battle of the shinty field

Today, two Highland villages clash sticks and exchange bruises in an ancient cup final. By Judith Palmer

n the shadow of the mighty Monadhliath Mountains, a pair of Highland villages lies in apparent peaceful coexistence on the banks of the River Spey. Scarcely three-anda-half miles separate the communities of hanned Kingussie and Newtonmore, yet the two have been riven by one of the feistiest rivalries in sporting history.

The villagers go to school with each other, work with each other, and even marry each other, but for 90 minutes every Saturday afternoon the ancient Scottish sport of shinty dominates their every moment; all their amity goes to the

wall and they pray for each other's defeat. Closely related to the Irish sports of hurling and camogie, shinty - or caman-achd, to give its Gaelic name - is essentially Celtic hockey. Dr Johnson called it bockey "without the rules".

"Injuries are got and taken gracefully and nothing too much made or said," nods a former Newtonmore midfielder. John Mackenzie, stoically. After 21 years in the senior team, it was a badly broken elbow which finally saw Mackenzie off the pitch. Who was responsible? "Form your own conclusion," he recommends, look-

ing three-and-a-half miles down the road. It was St Columba who first brought the game to Scotland, when he high-tailed it out of Ireland in 563AD in the wake of an argument that erupted at a shinty match. It seems that the game has been

three members of the Duffy family of Oban Celtic from play till the year 2001, after a fracas in which 18 of the 24

players on the pitch

laid down their sticks and

piled into the fray. "You have to remember that shinty started off as training for battle," says the

Newtonmore manager, David Cheyne. Battle clubs have long been forsaken for a spindly piece of sapling ash, known as a caman. Sticks swinging aloft, the players weave, lunge and barge their way across the 60-yard pitch to pluck the rockhard little ball from the sky. Lustily thwacked with the caman, the ball courses towards either the goal, or a smarting expanse of brave Highland flesh.

It's a fast and furious game of close man-to-man marking, and during a heated match easily a dozen sticks may be smashed to oblivion. In the autumn, confused by the sound of splintering wood, amorous stags have been known to storm the pitch in search of clashing antlers.

But the clash today is between the Old Firm of Kingussie and Newtonmore. It was only a recent change in the rules of the Cup (which used to pitch Northern and Southa cause of frayed tempers ever since. Ear- em teams in different halves of the draw)

which has allowed the old adversaries to meet in the final. So, for only the fourth time this century, when they meet at Fort William today for the 101st Camanachd Cup Final, Newtonmore and Kingussie will seize the holy opportunity to settle the oldest score in the Highlands.

Before the 1890s, and the advent of regular league matches and standardised rules of play, the villages would content themselves with issuing vitriolic match challenges in the Inverness Courier, each advertisement smattered with accusations of "cowardice" and "boastfulness". Or else they played the old way, on New Year's Day, up to 100 men to a team, coaxing the ball back and forth between the village boundaries until nightfall.

Once played across the length of Scotland, from the islands to the borders, by the 18th century shinty was already

becoming a minority sport, in danger of being played only by a few ex-pats in Wimbledon and Blackheath. Players were hounded first by puritanical Sabbatarians and royal edicts against "uncontrollable" games, and then by English-speaking schoolmasters who stamped hard on Gaelic culture.

So how did shinty survive in pockets such as the Badenoch region? John Mackenzie is sure he has the answer: "I honestly believe the game needs the challenge of the Kingussie-Newtonmore scenario. It keeps the interest alive."

This, at least, is one thing both sides can agree on. "It's the intense rivalry between Kingussie and Newtonmore which has kept them at the top," says Kingussie man formed the model for the handsome figure Glenmorangie Camanachd Cup Final, An John Robertson (who writes his team's surmounting the silver trophy. Perhaps Aird Park, Fort William, today, 3pm.

notes). "They're so busy competing with each other, they've constantly raised each other's game."

Between them, these two small villages

have dominated the sport throughout the history of the Cup. In the notorious back bar of the Balavil Sporting Hotel, surrounded by a century's photographs, trophies and cup-winners' medals, Newtonmore faithfuls will be happy to add up for you the 28 occasions on which they've brought home the Camanachd Cup. Fuelled by a few more nips of Dalwhinnie, they may also mention that Kingussie have managed the feat exactly half as often.

Down at the Silverfjord or The Tipsy Laird, the Kingussie men just may let it slip that it was they who won the first ever Camanachd Cup in 1896, and that it's one of their lads (John Dallas, whose greatgrandson plays in today's team) who

they'll mention this season's league victory and their astonishing 25-match unbeaten record. Rather than lessen the antagonism, the frequent intermarriages between opposing camps seem only to give added spice to their contests, "Aah, there's nothing like family rivalry for making it keen." ighs John Mackenzie, son of a Kingussie father and a Newtonmore mother.

But how long before this community backbone starts to crumble? "Even here. it's more and more dificult to keep the interest going," admits the coach, Donnie Grant.

With rugby, sking, canoeing and

computer games now, the kids have 101 different options to choose." Earlier this century, heavy Highland losses at Mafekand Ypres wiped out many a village shinty team. Now move away in search of employ-

> in the late Iwenties, faced with a similar decline, Kingussie Newtonmore took

the most drastic action possible: short-lived and ill-.ated team, "The Amalgamation". No whisper is ever now

heard of this ignominious period. And so to Fort William, and the Glenmorangie Camanachd Cup Final, a grand affair with piped bands and 4,000 spectators travelling out from the shinty heartlands of Skye and Oban, Inveraray, Tignabruiach and Drumnadrochit for the

much-savoured sight of a Badenoch derby. Thrashed 10-2 by Kingussie on their last league meeting, their team young and inexperienced, their captain on a disciplinary match suspension. Newtonmore are the undisputed underdogs. And yet, weren't Kingussie favourites last year, having won the cup seven times since 1984? And weren't the Kingussians rumoured then to have printed their victory T-shirts in advance?
"It was like VE Day back home,"

remembers MacIntyre. "The whole town turned out as we were piped home. The Camanachd Cup is the crown jewels of the Highlands."

#### The pirates' peninsula Weekend

#### walks: Hamish Scott crosses the water into the land of legends

Weekend

work

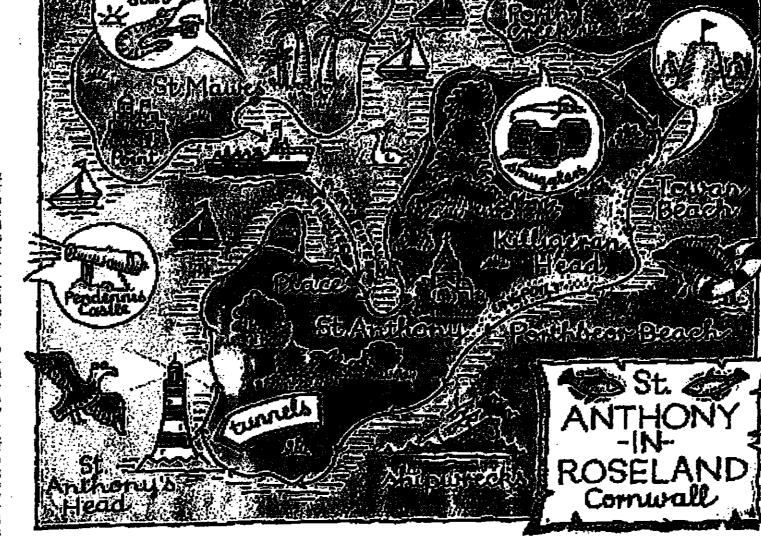
t felt as if we were leaving the safety of the harbour for a mystical, unknown land visible across the water. However, as we stepped on board the ferry at St Mawes we realised it was most unlikely we'd be shot with poisoned arrows in St-Anthonyin-Roseland. For all that, the romantic creeks and wooded hills that we could see across the estuary did look like the stuff of Cornish legends..

Though it is possible to reach the St Anthony peninsula by car, it's a long and winding road. The 15-minute ferry trip is quicker, much more fun, and a suitably adventurous start to any walk.

The ferry landed us at Place, beneath the sloping lawns of an enviable mansion. An exotic little egret was bobbing on the waters of the bay as we headed up the Percuil estuary along the coastal path, and our sense of being in a foreign land was heightened by the lushness of the vegetation. The woodland shimmered with an iridiscent haze of greenery and wild flowers. Across the water, we could see palm trees in the gardens of St Mawes.

Following the path around North-hill point, we continued on our way along the shore above the muddy waters of Porth Creek. This, according to a man we met repairing an old stile, was once notorious as a smugglers' haven; a labyrinthine waterway between steep, wooded hills where the excisemen from Falmouth had little chance of finding hidden contraband. It's a peaceful enough spot today, but two centuries ago no law-abiding citizen would have dared to venture on this path unarmed.

The upper waters of the creek are dammed to form a tidal pool beside a lovely old mill-house, where we crossed a footbridge to the Tarmac



lane. A hundred yards further on, a track off to the left took age in Carrick Roads. us down to Towan beach and a sudden change of scenery. We had reached the open sea.

Despite a bracing offshore breeze, there was plenty of activity on the beach. It was a typically English scene, with families rock-pooling and fight-ing with recalcitrant wind-shelters. Turning right along the coastal path, we passed another equally attractive beach at Porthbeor, beyond Killigeran Head. Coming under the pro-tection of the National Trust. this whole stretch of coast teeming colonies of corremains remarkably unspoilt, morants and shags. and despite the sandy beaches it's still a wild landscape of low but unforgiving cliffs and lated sandy or jagged rocks. Countless ships rocky shore. have come to grief here as
they have battled winter gales
they have battled winter gales
tick Roads, with fleets of around the headland of St dinghies, yachts and sail-

Resting on the headland, we admired what is claimed to be one of the finest natural harbours in the world. Across the estuary Pendennis Castle could see our lunch time desguarded Falmouth Dockyard; to the north we could see the castle of St Mawes; and beneath our feet magazines and tunnels lay buried in the hillside.-

Before continuing along the path, we diverted down steep steps to the lighthouse, where the offshore rocks are home to

The final mile of our circuit was an idyllic stroll past isolated sandy coves and above a

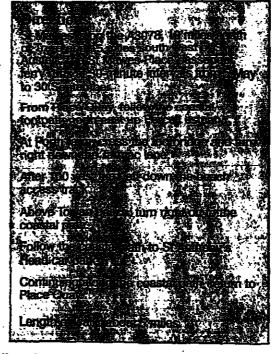
boards manoeuvring and racing in a close-packed dance of interweaving wakes.

We watched our ferry boat approaching from St Mawes and through binoculars we tination - the Rising Sun. We were waiting at the quayside as our boat pulled in.

A six-mile walk and fresh sea air can whip up quite an appetite. Sitting in the Rising Sun's plainly furnished public bar, we ordered up a feast of crabs and prawns which we washed down with St Austell

Glowing with a sense of well-earned satisfaction, we listened to the conversation of a weatherbeaten man seated at

"Of course," he was saying, "it's so easy nowadays to sail single-handed to America ...'



#### Farmers living at the sanctuary's edge blast off at any four-legged predator they set eyes on



Duff Hart-Davis

not a bird in sight. That was our first impression of the mountains of the Alto Minho, the upland wilderness of north-east passing resemblance to the Scottish Highlands. The Portuguese hills are slightly higher, their summits more rounded; but the expanses of naked rock, the scrubby heather, the

ranite, granite everywhere, and

rushing streams and the absence of human habitation are

The highest, wildest areas lie within the Peneda-Geres national The highest, wildest areas he within the reneua-tieres hautonal park, and during a walking tour last week I found myself comparing the conservation problems of Portugal with those nearer home. The climate of the Alto Minho is gentler than that of Scotland: rainfall is high, but frost and snow are rare. Yet the environment is even harsher, and seems to support far fewer birds and animals. Bears are said to have died out in 1650, and wild goats in 1890; but here and one deer are fairly numerous, and a few wolves still

but boar and roe deer are fairly numerous, and a few wolves still prowl the heights. Within the national park these last are protected; but gun licences are easy to obtain, and farmers living at the sanctuary's edges blast off at any four-legged predator they set eyes on. Of course we longed to see one, but had to be content with a set of three half-inch tracks printed in a patch of mud.

We did see wild ponies, in herds of 10 or a dozen, each with a fiery little stallion in charge. Almost all the mares had foals at foot—a fact that seemed to refute one farmer's claim that wolves prey heavily on the horses' offspring. As for birds, cuckoos called frequently at the fringes of the park, and we heard a nightingale singing in a thicket of young oaks. Yet in three long days' walking we spotted nothing in the sky over the high ground except two golden eagles and a hen-

harrier. Lower down, a single pair of partridges was the only sign On any comparable transit of the Highlands we would have seen eagles, grouse, ptarmigan, booded crows, ravens and large numbers of red deer. Between the tumbled piles of granite, the

heather was of poor quality: huge areas had been invaded by gorse and bracken, and there was practically nothing for herbivores to eat. Attempts had been made to encourage new growth by setting fire to the gorse – indeed, the number of blackened patches was astonishing. Our guide explained that a burnt-out area is officially deemed to have become less valuable, and that permission can be obtained to build a house on it, even within the park's boundaries.

Outside, many blazes are apparently started for fun: anything to liven up a dull Saturday night and watch the fire brigade turn out.

Like Scotland, Portugal has no law of trespass. Provided you do not cause damage, you can walk anywhere you like. Down in the farmland we followed paths that twisted between terraced fields

and vineyards, in the mountains we pounded the old pilerim trails leading to and from the great shrine at Peneda. These centuries-old tracks are works of art in themselves, the product of incredible human effort. They reminded me of the pony paths built by Victorian landlords to gain access to remote

parts of their Highland estates, but they are on an altogether grander scale, being shod with granite boulders, some weighing a few pounds, some many hundredweight. Beside the tracks march walls made of granite slabs set vertically on edge, with the gaps between neatly filled by smaller stones. So we walked with rock beneath our boots, rock to right

and left, and rock towering above us in gigantic cliffs and One final similarity with Scotland: the weather was all to blazes. "Here it never rains after mid-May," someone told us - but boy, was he wrong! Every afternoon clouds massed, lightning snaked down, thunder cannonaded round the peaks, and phenomenal

deluges set the granite gleaming. The result was that we usually reached base sodden, more convinced than ever that global warming is here to stay.

# Glamour and glitz, it's tea at the Ritz

An institution for the rich and famous for 91 years began to lose its sparkle, writes Meg Carter. But now, the Palm Court's back as the ultimate English tea



#### Time for tea

What is consumed in a year

of tea times at The Ritz

68,000 pots of tea

492,750 sandwiches

295, 650 cakes

197,100 scones

he two women sit side by side in complementary Laura Ashley dresses. The elder, with pepper and salt hair meticulously drawn back into a chignon, pours tea for her companion who sits demurely, hands folded across her lap. To their right, an animated trio wash down their sandwiches and tea with glasses of champagne. To their left a couple of businessmes are in interest diegus. ousinessmen are in intense discussion, the scones and cakes before them an irrelevance. And behind them, the discreet ministrations of the waiters pass unnoticed.

Tea at The Ritz, 1997, and at first glance only the clothes have changed since London's most famous hotel first opened 91 years ago. The venue is still the Palm Court – an assault of pinks and gold leaf with Ionic columns crowned by a windowed dome that makes the room's interior dome that makes the room's interior light and airy. Guests sit on rose-coloured Louis XVI chairs at meticulous pink tables. Tea is taken on Royal Worcester fine bone china with the original blue "forget-menot" pattern. Ladies are still encouraged to wear hats while men must come in jacket and tie: jeans and trainers are resolutely banned. And in the background, a pianist plays in the background, a pianist plays You Must Remember This ...

Scratch the surface, however, and you will find a great British institution grappling with change – because despite being more popular than ever (you must now book two to three weeks ahead for a table for afternoon tea on weekdays and a lot of people had commented on the fact The Ritz had lost its sparkle." staggering two to three months ahead for weekends) The Ritz is choose to visit The Ritz for afterbecoming a relic. It's a matter of balancing traditions with contemporary appeal, Ritz London spokes-Following a change of manageowner Trafalgar House sold out to the Barclay Brothers, new invest-

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The Ritz more customer-friendly." She candidly adds: "Before then, a

acutely conscious of the dangers of noon tea, you will find a more contemporary style of food on offer. Along with 14 different types of tea from Ritz Traditional English to woman Georgina Sullivan explains. Earl Grey and China Oolong - the staple of finger sandwiches, scones ment 18 months ago when former and cake selection has been jazzed up with the addition of speciality breads like caraway seed and sunment has been directed to making dried tomato. Sacrilege? Hardly.

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The Ritz has always been in tune with the times. After all, why else would it have proved so popular with fashionable society for more than

The Ritz was opened in May, 1906, by Cesar Ritz, 13th child of an Alpine shepherd and a former wine waiter. It was the first place in London where young ladies could take tea alone. Barbara Cartland, the romantic novelist, was a regular shortly after the First World War when, she observed: "One could meet men, without chaperones, for lunch and tea. So you had lunch with

the men you were keen on, and tea with the rest." Edward and Mrs Simpson had tea here. And the Hollywood greats came throughout the Forties and Fifties, along with the Aga Khan. Burt Lancaster, Adam Faith and Selina Scott are more recent regulars although of others

Discretion lies at the heart of The Ritz's appeal, you see. Not only is one guaranteed privacy (no photography is allowed when the Palm Court is in use) but discretion extends to the style of service which,

the hotel staff remain suitably tight-

while formal, is neither intrusive nor stuffy – which cannot be said of some of its rivals, like Claridges or The Savoy. The Palm Court's 14strong team of waiters, led by Master of Ceremonies Michael Twomey, who has worked the tea room for the past 51 years, are part of the appeal.

Ms Sullivan claims. "Many people come to see them - it's like having tea with old friends."

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- for all pockets

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Formerly known as The Regent, this five star railway hotel opposite Marylebone Station

Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1 If The Ritz is beyond your

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Delicious French patisserie which caters for the

serves lashings of tea and cakes throughout the

coffee & croissant brigade each morning and

Aurora Café, 49 Lexington Street, W1 Idiosyncratic Soho cafe which also does light meals in the evening. Good cakes and an extensive range of teas including herbal and

Where better on a sunny day than the garden

cafe in the centre of Russell Square where you can take in some sun, some tea and a bun.

means, pop over the road to the Royal

Maison Bertaux, 28 Greek Street, W1

can take tea at £14 per head.

tasteful surroundings.

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Russell Square, WC1

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Franco Baratta has been serving tea in the Palm Court for 37 years. Taking tea at The Ritz has never been more popular, he says: "We Ritz daily at 3.30pm and 5pm and have around 500 calls a day from costs £21 per head.

people trying to make reservations.
The phone starts ringing at 7am ..."
Each day, the Palm Court stages two
tea sittings – at 3.30pm and again at
5pm – which means a total of about
180 teas on a weekday, 230 a day at
weekends To save you the calculaweekends. To save you the calculation, this equates to just under 70,000 teas a year taken by a broad cross-section of clientele. There are infrequent visitors up from the country for the day as well as regulars who come every month. There are the titled ("The Royal Family? I've served them all," Mr Baratta proudly reveals) and there are tourists. "Many come from America, many from Japan. And since the Channel Tunnel opened, we've found a lot of people coming over from France, Holland and Belgium - it's so quick now to come to London for tea."

The reason why is harder to equate. At £21 per head for set tea, it's surely more than for the novelty, so what exactly is the appeal? Mr Baratta smiles. "I've been here almost 40 years and I'm still trying to work out the appeal" he confides work out the appeal," he confides. "It's the name. The room. The place everything. It's something special."

People come for the attention to detail, Ms Sullivan believes. "Since the Barclay Brothers bought us, we've been tworking hard to bring this back in reinsteed. The Ritz always needed private ownership rather than becoming lost in a chain." The Ritz may not be the grandest place to take tea in London, but it makes up for that in quality and style, she insists. "Tea shouldn't be a sombre affair - it's about chatting, it's a social interlude. We are trying to bring back tea as an event that doesn't have to be a special occasion." The intention? To make it less formidable. And neither price, nor queues, she insists, should deter.

Tea is served in the Palm Court at The

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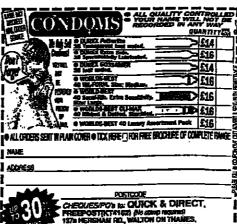
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Share People

Dancers' costumes trom **Twenties** night-club shows, by a peerless theatrical designer, are to be sold at Christie's, reports John Windsor



Erté's gay Paree

unique collection of exotic topiess designs transformed them into spectacular costumes by the French designer Erté, tableaux. designs transformed them into spectacular are sizes 10 and 12. A Ceres costume with worn in floor shows in Paris nightclubs in the Thirties, is for sale at Christie's South Kensington next week.

Ené - real name Romain de Tirtoff (1892-1990) - was the most famous theatre and fashion designer of his day. His scanty costumes, with sequins, coloured ostrich plumes and imaginative appendages, were designed to amaze and amuse middle-class Parisians. But for British tourists in our grandfathers' day, they epitomised the naughtiness of gay Paree.

The 22 lots in this lovingly preserved collection, "the property of a gentleman", were mostly worn by women performers at the Bal Tabarin in Montmartre. The night-

club's owner, Pierre Sandrini, was the son of the prima ballerina Emma Sandrini. He introduced ballet to his floor shows, and Erté's

There was a new show every year, each with a theme, such as The Planets or The Symphony; some were inspired by historical figures such as Cleopatra and Madame de Pompadour.

In the sale, two lots of leopard and tiger costume pieces, with tall headdresses, flowing trains and padded tails - but nothing to cover the torso - are estimated at £150-£200.

There are 10 halter-necked body stockings from Métal, one of the most success-Thirties ballets. They are densely embroidered with gold and pink sequins in the form of cogs. The same lot includes eight bodices with simulated pearls, trimmed with ostrich feathers, and a collection of undergarments including a nov-elty bra in the form of a cat's head. The est-

imate is £100-£200.

All the costumes

simulated ears of wheat, for The Planets of 1937, is estimated at £150-£200, and flowing capes with wave designs from La Mer, also 1937, £700-£800. A lyre costume with a platform waist and tassels, dated as late as 1945, is estimated at £150-£200. Erté's long career spanned designing

costumes for Mata Hari in 1913 to designing costumes and sets for Glyndebourne's Der Rosenkavalier in 1980. The revealing costumes to be auctioned give no hint that he was the creator of unisex fashion in 1926. But he

The Erté costumes will be lots 79-100 in Christie's South costume and needlework,



#### Under the counter

with Lindsay Calder

Erté's phenomenal

extended from stage

to catwalk, Left, his costume for the show

Scala in Berlin, 1930. Below, left to right,

Folies-Bergère, 1920; Ceres for 'The Planets'

at the Bal Tabarin in

Paris, 1937; Octopus

Sea' at the French

1946, and the

Casino in New York,

Lantern-bearer for

'The Treasures of

Indochina' at the

Alcazar music hall in

Marseilles in 1922

for 'The Bottom of the

'Casanova' at the

costume for the

creative output

#### Who's afraid of the farty-breath bug?

think it was the moment when as "the simple housewife", so I while we're away" that really did it for me. Spending a month in South America had been gradually losing its appeal ever since I'd paid for the flights.

At first I spurned Cornwall and the Costa del Sol as not exotic enough, but sod that come rain, come grockles, come lovely. Friends of mine went fish and chips, at least the odds are high on returning home from the holidays. I confess it was my idea to take this extended holiday" - I'd read the guidebooks. and had no qualms whatsoever. but as soon as they get to hear of your impending trip, the holiday terrorists come out in force, and vie with each other to recount the most gruesome anecdote

about your destination. I've spent £160 on vaccinin my arms that, if my body weight were halved people would be forgiven for thinking I were a supermodel. But jabs are not enough. The favourite 'you'll never guess what I caught there illness is giardiasis. Three people have told me about it, and I don't want to know any more. I had never heard of giardiasis until a friend's boyfriend caught it. When I asked what it was, she explained in a most serious tone. "well, it's awful - you burp farts". It wasn't so much his health she was concerned about; she was most put out that she had to sit next to him on the 14-hour flight home. Others have described the condition as "Coca-Cola bottom". Piease, piease God, don't

let me catch this. Then, there's the infection you get if you pee into stagnant water (why you would want to, I don't know, other than because it makes a nice sound) and little micro-things swim "upstream" into your body. I was told this by

my husband said 'we'd better didn't pay much attention when give Dad power of attorney she gleefully told me I must "pee through a tea-strainer". A rather more convincing source terday, so I'm beginning to believe it. But the most startling comment came from an alarmingly dippy lawyer I know. there last year. He died after week, but I think they were hav-

ing a lovely time. Look out bandits, mosquitoes and farty-breath bugs, because I have been doing some serious shopping: khaki army trousers with drawstring ankles to keep the creepy-crawlies out, £19.37. from Laurence Corner. Zoom headlamp for hands-free nighttime jungle ablutions, £24.99; Belt Bank, a belt with interior zip ations, and have so many holes to stash the cash and fool the desperados, £9.99; Pur Potable water purifier, to eliminate giar-diasis cysts, £54.99; all from the Survival Shop. Lifestyle impregnated mosquito net, £28.95; Expedition 100 (maximum strength) insect repellent, so dengue fever doesn't interfere with our itinerary, £5.99; Swiss Clean wipes, to wipe absolutely everything. £2.99; all from the Porter Nash Pharmacy. Emergency sterile medical kit. £17.50: Immodium, box of 18 (I've got

four boxes), £5.99; Boots. I don't have room for any clothes at all, now that I've packed that lot, but I've got to make space for a couple more things: a tea strainer, and a packet of extra strong mints for the flight home.

Laurence Corner, 62-64 Hampstead Road, London NW1 (0171-813 1010); The Survival Shop, 11-13 West Colonnade, Euston Station, London NW1 (0171-388 8353); Porter Nash Pharmacy, a woman who is known at the British Airways. 156 Regent Street, company, where she is a director, London W1 (0171-434 4700).

What we spent on private health and fitness clubs and home fitness equipment 1991-96 1991 577 1992 1993 596 1995 711

Participation in sport and exercise, November I play sport or exercise at least once a week because I enjoy it I play sport or exercise at least once a week because I think I ought to for my health/fitness

I play sport or exercise occasionally I play sport or exercise occasionally because I think I should for my health/fitness

ADWATCH: Audi breaks fresh ground

he hand-over of Hong Kong to Chinese rule is the topical backdrop to the £4.5m launch of Audi's new A6 car which broke on TV earlier this week. The ad says as much about Audi as it does about the new model, the company insists. But what does it say about the state of British car advertising?

Action takes place on a nickety fishing boat approaching south Chinese waters. Harbour police stop it and search for illegal goods smuggled from the West. A voice-over talks of the impact of consumerism on Communist societies. The impassive crew watch in silence as the police leave empty-handed. The boat sails on.

Cut to the waters beneath the fishing boat's wake and we see it is towing a canvaswrapped load. Next shot is a warehouse by a quayside where the wrappings are removed to reveal the new A6 in all its glory. Some consumers are one step ahead, the voice-over explains, as the car is seen tearing along a Chinese road. Vorsprung durch

technik, as the Chinese say. It may not sound like



much, but this ad is little short of revolutionary. All too often car ads are samey and bland - slick motors racing along country roads. Or, for a bit of variety, blistering deserts. Or even

burning fields. Admittedly, the Nineties have bred a new genre with "new men" lulling screaming babies to sleep with the purt of their car's engine. Or racing effortlessly to the hospital as their wives were giving birth. Or fantasising about furtive snogs on the bonnet with ... their wives.

Yet ads that really stand out are few and far between. Some have tried too hard. Like Rover. Its latest ads feature a bomb disposal

expert driving to his next job. (The Rover is as smooth as the touch required to dismantle the bomb, you sec.) A second ad, with a blindfolded hostage released by turbaned tribesmen in a mountainous land, was withdrawn last week following complaints about

There are, however, a few exceptions. Such as the

launch campaign for the Ka, which teased the audience with glimpses of the product and a host of apparently unrelated imagery. And Audi, which has adopted a more cerebral approach.

Recent Audi campaigns rely on understatement - not an obvious advertising strategy. In the classic A4 commercial, a gauche yuppie test-drives the car, spouting all manner of grating Eightics aspirations before conceding that it's not his style. In last year's launch ad for the A3, the car is seen

driving towards a gauntlet of advertising clichés: falling rocks, fire and brimstone. Instead of continuing, the A3 driver turns back. "If you want stunts, go to the circus," the strapline dryly observes.

The agency behind these ads, Bartle Bogle Hegarty, calls it an "antidote" to traditional car advertising. "Why be restricted by set agendas, is the message of the A6 launch campaign," an account manager, Richard Exon, explains. "It's about questioning the status quo." Audi's marketing director, Neil Burrows, adds: "It is getting harder for a new car's advertising to break

really will be unexpected." The new A6 is important for Audi, he explains. "It does a job for the whole Audi range. With its bold and striking design, we hope the A6 will underline what Audi stands for: style, class.

through in an original way.

Hopefully, our approach

reliability and good design." Whether prospective buyers agree remains to be seen, but one thing's for sure: they'll be likely to remember its name.

Hardwood Garden Furniture from £ 59.99 (inc. carriage).

Ideal for outdoor and conservatory use, this high quality garden furniture is exceptional value.

The furniture is made from Bagtihan, a heavy hardwood timber from sustained forestry resources, sanded to a smooth finish and treated

with teak oil to enhance its looks and durability. Constructed to a high standard, using mortise and tenon joints, it can be left outdoors in all seasons and requires minimal maintainance -

just a coat of teak oil once or twice a year. The 4ft (122cm) bench costs £ 89.99, and the 5ft (152cm) is just £ 99.99. The chairs cost £ 69.99 and are 62cm wide. Both benches and the chair, measure 90 cm high by 62cm deep. The coffee table costs just £ 59.99 and measures 90cm long,

The furniture is delivered flat-packed but each item is easily constructed from four separate pieces which slot together to give a professional finish. UK mainland car-

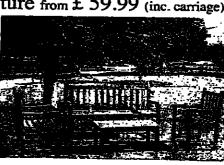
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Getting in a flap over cats hat a bad time it is for cats.

revelations of Princess Michael using traps to catch strays in the hallowed precincts of Kens-

But whatever ones sympathies, there is no doubt cats can be a nuisance. When my cat, Rocky, messed on the rush matting in the bathroom last week, my impulse was to conceal the crime rather than risk another "Give that cat away/Off with his head" tirade from my husband. But it proved impossible to clean. I had to cut out the smelly patch, and was found by hubby looking for a sharp knife in the catbedewed tool box. "The cats been in the bathroom again. Have you seen the Stanley knife?" I asked. "You don't need a knife," came the tart reply. "The vet will put him down painlessly for you. Rocky, cavesdropping, recognised his insulting tone and took a swift revenge. Husbands trousers were draped high on the bedpost. He heaved his aching joints on to the bed, and must have twisted himself round that bedpost in an acrobatic leap to water the trousers.

Is there no cure for such cattiness? Can I save

Rocky? I asked some experts.
"Its unusual," said the pet behavioural expert
Peter Neville, author of Cat Behaviour Explained
(FAB Publications, £8.99). He doubted that Rocky, a placid neuter, had a personal vendetta against my husband. The emotional bits of cats brains aren't as highly developed as a dogs. "Has your husband changed smell? Aftershave? Is he stressed at work? It you have tiffs, it can set the cat off. He's trying to associate his mark with your husbands. It may be innocent - if your husband brought in an old cat scent once, even if its gone away, he associates the scent with his.

Peter explained that Rocky could be treated by a pet counsellor like himself if a vet were to refer him, with fees reclaimable from pet insurance. He might prescribe an anti-stress drug similar to Prozac. Maybe my husband could become more cat user-friendly by feeding



Humphrey, the Downing Street cat was almost run-over by the Clinton cavalcade. Then there were bizarre keep the peace and control some wayward cattiness



Audrey Hepburn and her ginger co-star in 'Breakfast at Tiffany's' (1961)

(Unlikely.) "Second, that it becomes a natural ritual for your cat to pee and poo on your husbands things, and he gets anxious if he doesn't." So what can I do to keep the peace and stop the pee? There are cheap sprays that are supposed to deter cats from your house and garden, though I have never found an effective one, perhaps because many of them need to be

applied daily and I give up too fast. Sainsbury's Homebase has a variety, from Pepper Dust at £2.99 to Bio Ready to Use Cat and Animal Repellent Spray at £3.79.

But the industrial-strength spray is called Feliway, available from vets at about £13.50 for a 60ml bottle. You spray it on the items or places the cat favours for his toilet. Feliways Marketing Manager, Ronnie Leggat, revealed that many share my cat's problem. "People think they are the only ones

to suffer," he said. "But our research shows that one in three cat owners has this problem. People put up with it, on average, for 55 months before seeking help." Cats have specific betes noires. He once

received a desperate call from the owners of a Siamese whose urinary dexterity had put paid to two camcorders, a microwave, a toaster and a kettle. Another owner found her Safeway carrier-bags of food soaked, the moment she came home with them. Ronnie Leggat suspects that some substances, such as plastic bags and warm electrics, give off smells which the cat confuses with other cats urine. So it resprays them to name-tag the places as its own.

also encourage them to go again in the same ance. place. The ammonia in cleaning fluids has a urine-like smell. "Clean up thoroughly with a biological detergent, then fill a plant mister with surgical spirit and spray the area," advises Clare

lowing successful openings in

Vancouver, Toronto and Syd-

Not bad for a team who

rapid - fuelled by the

Enzynamite, a Papaya

ney. Lush has even reached

Croatia, too.

Tickner of the Feline Advisory Bureau, which publishes two free leaflets on the subject, Indoor Spraying Problems and Indoor Toilet-ing Problems. "Cats rarely spray near their food, so put small tubs of dry cat food at their favourite sites. Stick the food down to stop the cat eating it." Other tactics include putting down pine cones of tin foil on the area. Never rub a cats nose in its doings, or tell it off, the FAB advises. It just makes them feel more insecure.

RSPCA vet David Grant thinks this com-

plaint is the province of classy cats. "You see this behaviour in emotional cats, such as tortoiseshells, Burmese, Siamese, Abyssinian and, yes, British Blues." He warns that its a self-perpetuating problem unless you clean well.

"A cat urinates out a particular pheromone when it is stressed out. The smell of this reinforces the desire to pee there again.

If the smell lingers, what can you do? I have found that Ambi Pur air freshener, a real perfume bottle you plug in, is effective. The eucalyptus variety is best, the floral smells like cheap aftershave. Sue Phillips, of Classic FM's Gardening Forum suggests Share No. Stein and dening Forum, suggests Shaws No-Stain, an "amazing" clear liquid which removed all traces of her cats active dislike of a visitor.

Others have problems with intruder cats coming into their house or garden and leaving a

Take a robust approach. Spiky plants will deter cats from using your flower beds. Spread out the cuttings from raspberry plants. Clear the area of cat-attracting plants such as catnip

In extreme cases, there is always ambush. "A water pistol is useful," suggests Clare Tickner. The problem of cat burglars in the house is solved by using a Staywell 32 cat door, which ives cats a magnetic door key worn on a collar that releases the door catch only to them. There are several different colour codes of door key, and I found that a neighbouring cat was get-ting in because its owners had by chance bought the same colour for their cat. I got round this by writing to Staywell, who obligingly changed

my unit free of charge.

The deluxe animal repellent, says Sue
Phillips, is Catwatch Mark Two. This is an electronic box that emits an unpleasant noise if a cat comes within 40ft. Birds and humans cant hear it, and you can use it inside or out-

Feliway Natural Spray costs from £13.50 from vets. For more information, contact Sanofi Animal Health, PO Box 209, Rhodes Way, Watford, Hertfordshire, WD2 4QE (01923 212212).
 The Feline Advisory Bureaus leaflets, Indoor Toileting Problems and Indoor Spraying Problems, are free if you send a large sae (and preferably a small donation). You can also order Page Navilles.

small donation). You can also order Peter Nevilles book, 'Cat Behaviour Explained', at £8.99 includ-ing p&p. FAB. Taeselbury. High Street, Tisbury, Wiltshire SP3 6LD.

Staywell 32 cat door with cat door key on its collar costs £42.50 from The Pet Pavilion, Chelsea Farmers Market, Sidney Street, London SW3 6NR (mail order, 0171-376 8800).

Catwatch Mark Two, £49.99. Call 01763
 244266 (Concept Research) for stockists and mail

 Get a list of cat counsellors from the Association of Pet Behavioural Counsellors, 01386 751151. If you are referred from a vet, you can

 Ambi Pur air freshener costs about £3 from Waitrose and other supermarkets. Refills,



Pictures taken from

'Cat World - a Feline

Encyclopedia' by Desmond Morris

The time ...

Saturday, 7 June 1997

The place ...

The South of England Show, Ardingly, West Sussex. Tickets £9 adults, £5 senior citizens/students, £3.50 children

The essentials ...

Although this is one of the country's biggest agricultural shows you don't have to be a farmer to go. Set in the heart of rural West Sussex, Ardingly gives city dwellers a

Renault Mega

the bill for a y

ites John Simis

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hd more



outdoors and see what a British BSE-free cow actually looks like. But before you ... start checking the dimensions of your fridge freezer and car roof-rack, as you imagine a juicy fillet steak with tartars sauce, this cattle is not for sale. Along with the pedigree sheep, these prize winning specimens are for show only. You can buy smaller animals like ducks, which cost between £10 and £15 and apparently make ideal pets, although they're also great served with a tangy orange sauce. Vegetarians though may prefer to sample the home made produce, such as



preserves which start at £1.75 and cakes from 50p. If as a child you dreamt of driving a shiny red tractor this is the place to turn those fanciful thoughts into reality. You can pick up a spanking New Holiand Series for just £54,000.

Or a woolly jumper: buy a classic chunky knit Acorn jumper with a lamb or horse motif for £49 from the Yeovil **/ eep Skin Shop stand or b mail order on 01935 423468. Or green wellies: Try Kevin's Men's Wear stand where

basic PVC boots cost £10,99 or £34.00 for the Hunter and Huntress buckled brand, or phone 01373 822145.



Then relax with the real flavour of the country with some additive and preservative-free cider at £2.50 from the Norfolk Cider Company or by mail order 01953

Janet Knight



#### No soft soap, just home-made bakes and stacks of cakes

Lush has gone from cottage industry to international name, writes Meg Carter

A NEW SUPPLEMENT FOR CITY t's fast becoming known as the Nineties Body PROFESSIONALS ACROSS THE U.K. Shop. Lush, purveyor of fresh and handmade cosmetics, bath and body products, already has seven branches in CITY LIFESTYLES & CITY FASHION the UK with four more opening in coming weeks and a growing presence overseas. Paris is next on the cards fol-

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Bread, a bread-based face mask, and Red Rooster, orange- and spice-based soaps, are typical creations. No ingredient has been animal-tested, most are fresh. Packaging is kept to a minimum. Visiting the stores is more like popping down to the local bakery than shopping at Boots or even Lush's closest spiritual rival, Body Shop. Constantine and his colleagues are, in the truest sense, a cottage industry. So how will Lush retain its

just three years ago were out of work (and pocket) followunique style in the face of ing the collapse of their presuch dramatic growth? vious business, the mail Constantine affects relucorder operation Cosmetics tant acceptance of the chain's to Go. With little else to do. dramatic growth, suggesting consumer demand rather they gravitated back together and began mixing cosmetics than barefaced ambition is by food processor in the dragging Lush into high Poole kitchen of Lush's manstreets across the land. Howaging director, Mark Conever, he is wise to be caustantine. In 1995, the first tious. "We've been up all the ladders and down the snakes store opened in Poole. With its striking displays of soap hunks piled high like right back to the beginning of the board," he explains. cheeses, fresh face packs "We've had our share of sucserved from mixing bowls, deli-style, and bath salts and cess." And failure, too. Having supplied the Body Shop shampoos stacked like rows for years with his own invenof cannon balls, Lush quickly tions, such as Ice Blue Shamcaught on. A début in Lonpoo and Peppermint Foot Lotion, his Cosmetics to Go don's Covent Garden followed soon after. became a victim of its own Growth since has been success when, unable to fulfil

founders' commitment to tration. It is now owned by hand-made, fresh produce. There may be little to cleansing treatment, Aroma-

ing to make. Which is why Lush has already done things differently to Body Shop in its early days. "If you don't like the principle of packaging, you get rid of the box, cellophane and instruction leaflet - getting it down to the minimum bottle and labelling with a good product inside," Constantine explains. The next step? "Something solid, with no packaging at all." And there's more: "Next is no preservatives. But you can only do this if your products have no water content. So we developed solid bars of

"Natural" is not the issue although it is important. Which is why Lush does use some synthetic materials: "People like their shampoo to lava," he explains. "My belief is when people ask for 'natural' what they really mean is 'safe'." As no ingredients or products, for that matter, have been tested on animals, all rely on simple, basic ingredients. "If you want to stick to this it's simple: you choose materials that are known quantities, like bananas."

This is underlined in the Lush Manifesto, reproduced in every edition of the customer newspaper Lush Times. "We also believe in making our fresh products by hand, printing our own prove, but they still have a liv- labels and making our own

fragrances," the manifesto adds. This was born of necessity rather than choice. retail director Rowena Hofbauer explains. "When we started up Lush we were broke. Labels were produced on our computer and, because of the paper we used, many disintegrated in the shower. While we have improved this, the principle remains the same - all products are dated and carry the

name of the person who

made that batch."

The back to basics approach extends to selfpromotion, too. Wary of the hard sell. Lush prefers to stress the unassailable facts of its products - mostly natural and always fresh. Even the no animal testing stance doesn't get a look in. "No one really likes the hard sell, do they?" Constantine observes. "'Natural' and 'fresh', is all we really need to say. Other cosmetics can be up to two years old by the time you buy them. 'Fresh' is a significant differentiator. I wouldn't be surprised if in a

few years' time it really catches on." So how will Lush reconcile this with expansion overseas? The UK shops' 110strong product range is still produced by hand in Poole. There is talk, however, of setting up a second production centre to supply the

Glasgow branch and future shops in Scotland and northern England. No problem. Constantine says. Lush recipes have already been successfully exported abroad "We never actively

decided to go international at least not this soon," he says. Overseas branches came about only when local entrepreneurs approached him to copy the Covent Garden store. They are not franchised, like Body Shop, but the result of one-to-one deals which involve training in the Lush art of fresh cosmetics production. Constantine likens it to a network of local bakeries. The only exception is in Croatia where the owner makes regular trips to England with an empty van and pockets full of cash,

'We're probably the only people who could have done it - after all, we did start making all our products from home." he claims. Which is why Lush remains confident that no matter how large it grows, it will keep the faith - with its founding principles and its cottage industry roots. "We're not going to be as large as the Body Shop, ever. But we do think we'll appear in almost every country, eventually," Constantine says. So long as it continues to be fresh. "And fun."

orders, it went into adminis-

# A great little mover

The Renault Megane Scenic fits the bill for a young family, writes John Simister

New Labour's new converts: affluent folk with the high seating position of this most popular of multi-purpose vehicles. Those who drive MPVs (subtext: it's slightly naff to like cars, so I drive something practical and useful that isn't obviously a car) perfectly represented the key to Labour's success.

But there's something not quite right about all this. A Ford Galaxy, a Volkswagen Sharan, a Renault Espace, a Toyota Previa – they're all rather big. bunging up the pavements as they dis-gorge their contents on the school run, guzzling rather more gas than is truly green in this caring, sharing future of ours. Besides, when did you last see an

MPV with all seven seats sat upon?
Out of this vacuum of MPV doubt emerges the Renault Megane Scenic. It's a sort of three-quarter-scale Espace that does everything a full-size MPV can do, apart from carry seven people. To compensate for this possible shortcoming, you get a car that is more manoeuvrable and easier to park, that uses less fuel, and that even gives you slightly more luggage space. It is also

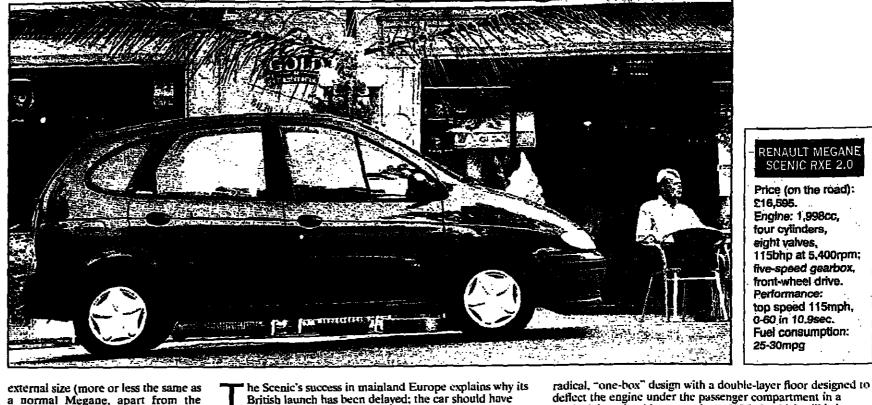
cheaper than the average magic bus.
People don't buy MPVs purely for space and seating capacity, though. They buy them for the high seating position, which children particularly enjoy. and for their versatility. The Scenic fills these needs perfectly, and takes the versatility yet further. It's based on the roof-mounted magnet. under-structure of a regular Renault

alaxy Man is the symbol of Megane, but has a higher, secondary floor. The space between the two floor layers, space normally wasted in MPVs. high-minded, high-value is filled with storage compartments in thoughts to match the the Scenic. Your offspring could lose a teddy bear for years if they tried hard enough.

Then there are the rear seats. These fold flat, tumble forward out of the way or can be removed altogether, as in most MPVs, but you can also remove just the middle seat and move the outer ones closer together, so they can recline fully past the rear-wheel housings. With all three seats in place, you can move the middle one further forward so that a child sat thereon is closer to its parents in the front, or so that three adults in the rear row don't rub shoulders. This middle seat can fold into a table, too; and if you fold down all three rear seats together, without causing the occu-you can reposition the rigid (very pants to be flung around. You sit high, you can reposition the rigid (very strong) rear shelf lower down to align with the folded seats. You'll then have a flat load area, with some storage space left beneath. Alternatively, you can store the shelf on the floor, or take it out completely when your Scenic is being a van.

Top-model Scenics can be had with every seat in a different colour, to brighten an otherwise grey interior and, no doubt, encourage regular occupants to claim "their" seats. Whoever opts for the centre rear seat is not short-changed on safety, either; there's a proper threepoint belt, which retracts into the roof when not needed. Its metal end is prevented from swaying around by a neat,

You should try one. Move over, Galaxy Man. New Labour, your char-With its solid rear shelf and small



he Scenic's success in mainland Europe explains why its external size (more or less the same as British launch has been delayed; the car should have normal Megane, apart from the height), the Scenic is more adaptable been here in February. Now that it's available, maybe the same scenario will unfold here, and Renault will clean up while than most MPVs to the multifarious other car-makers hurriedly hone the rivals. Here's what they needs of everyday life. It's also surprisingly entertaining to drive, because the relatively small size makes it more agile than the average MPV. It leans more in corners than an ordinary Megane hatch-

Citroen: The Xanae concept car, which did the motor-show rounds a couple of years ago, had huge, chevron-like glass panels in the roof (the idea was to echo the company's hadge) and a side-window treatment that made the Xanae look like a giant eye. A production version, based on the ZX replacement due this autumn, would look less bizarre but would still obviously be a Citroën. A Peugeot variation is likely, too.

Fiat: The Multipla. a six-seater with a cage-like tubular chassis beneath simple body panels, goes on sale in November next year. It's no longer than a Scenic, but wider, with very upright sides and slim doors to make room for two rows of three seats. It has a strange, double-bubble body design, with the windscreen occupying a separate bubble from the bonnet beneath, and a fascia with a huge central speedometer and a bechive-

Ford: The family of cars that will replace the Escort for 1999 will include a Scenic-like version, to be built at the Halewood plant on Merseyside. It's a vital car for Halewood, threatened with closure recently. The "Escort MPV" will have a curvy pro-file but sharp-edged detailing, in line with Ford's "edge design" look already seen on the Ka.

Mercedes-Benz: The A-class will be launched this summer, a

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC RXE 2.0 Price (on the road):

£16,595. Engine: 1,998cc, tour cylinders, eight valves, 115bhp at 5,400rpm; five-speed gearbox. front-wheel drive. Performance: top speed 115mph. 0-60 in 10.9sec. Fuel consumption: 25-30mpg

crash. Prices should start at about £15,000, which will bring Mercedes into a new market. Engines will be 1.4-litre and 1.6litre petrol units, and a 1.7-litre turbo-diesel, and the styling is truly striking, with a very short nose, a waistline rising in a curve to the roof, and a wraparound rear window. Vauxhall: A new Astra will be launched at the Frankfurt Show in September, featuring many lightweight components in a bid

to reverse the recent trend of new cars to be heavier than those they replace (the result of more complexity and safety equipment). The Astra range will include an MPV slightly larger than the Scenic, with sliding rear-side doors and the snub nose and extra front quarter-windows of larger MPVs. Volkswagen: This autumn is a busy time in the hatchback

class, for as well as replacements for the ZX and the Astra we'll see arguably the most important of all, a new Volkswagen Golf. A year later comes the five-seater Golf MPV, which will be the most egg-shaped of all the Scenic-inspired cars, while still keeping a Golf "face". As well as the usual four-cylinder engines, the Golf will steal a march on rivals by including the company's new 2.3-litre VR5 engine in its line-up.

Japan is behind Europe in the mini-MPV game at the moment, and hasn't truly latched on to the concept of individually foldable and removable seats, but currently offers the Daihatsu Grand Move and the larger Toyota Pienic and Mitsubishi Space Runner. Some would say, though, that Honda invented the MPV breed with the Civic Shuttle of 1984. Pity the designers didn't think harder about the seating plan-

#### Car makers pedal their famous names

fortable.

back, of course, but it retains most of

that car's ability to make bends flow

but the Scenic does not feel unwieldy or

top-heavy, just relaxing and very com-

There are two petrol engine sizes on

offer: 1.6 litres, which copes adequately

but can struggle when every cubic inch

of the ample carrying capacity is in use,

and 2.0 litres, a better bet because it

makes what Renault UK terms its

active. You can also have a 1.9-litre turbodiesel, but it's a fairly gruff machine. Trim levels begin at RN - an RN 1.6

costs £12,995 - and progress through RT

to the sybaritic RXE which, with the 2.0-

litre motor, is yours for £16,595.

"Multi Activity Car" usefully more

#### Cyclists can leap astride a Ferrari, Lotus, Porsche and more ...

ar company engineers and designers tend to like cycling. That's sifying into the world of self-propelled transport. Another is that the marketing guys, masters of peddling rather than pedailing, can see potential profit in plastering their badges and "brands" all over bicycles, the world's most efficient form of transport, and increasingly one of the best loved (again). Car companies involved in the bike trade - and the number grows every year - include Ferrari, Daewoo, Mercedes-Benz, BMW, Audi, Aston Martin, Land Rover, Lotus, Porsche. The RAC and Bridgestone have also jumped on the bandwagon.

Rurely are these bikes manufactured by the car companies whose badge they wear. The special carbon-fibre frame used in the Ferrari bike we tested is, however, manufactured by Ferrari Engineering. In some cases, the car company involvement is no greater than supplying a badge, specifying the colour and hiking the bike maker's usual price. In other cases the bike is unique, although based heavily on another bike. All the engineering work

will have been done by the bicycle maker. Again, prices tend to be high. Two car makers that do at least some of the bicycle engineering themselves are Lotus (which memorably supplied Chris Boardman with his Olympic Games-winning bike five years ago) and Porsche. Both companies have large outside engineering consultancies, able to turn their hands to any mechanical problem, including that of conceiving bikes that look or go better than the norm. Here, we sample three of the latest bike offerings from the car industry - a Porsche, designed and engineered jointly by Porsche and German bike specialists Votec; the RAC bike, designed by Alex Moulton, one of Britain's best bike brains; and a Ferrari, produc ed in conjuntion with the top Italian bike maker Colnago.



Porsche bike

It's a bit hard getting your head around a bike that costs £3,400. It's also a bit hard getting your backside on to the saddle. The seating position is unusually high, an upshot of the Porsche having front and rear suspension. The suspension makes for an unusually cushioning ride, although, like

some German cars, the seat is hard and uncomfortable. The saddle is about as thick as a razor and about as comfortable as sitting on a metal bar. You need to wear those silly cycle shorts, with chamois leather inserts in the crotch, before you'd get any owner-satisfaction from this bike.

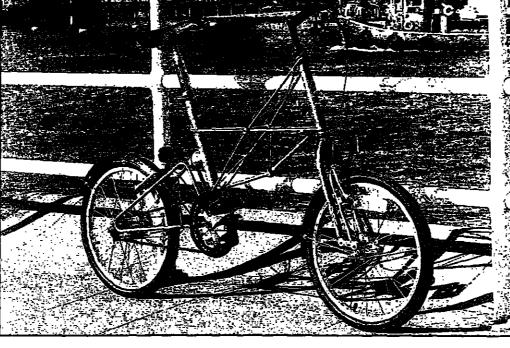
The front and rear suspension is designed to make for faster and smoother cross-country and downhill mountain-bike racing, the real point behind the Porsche FS (for Full Suspension) bike.

The Porsche also has proper disc brakes front and rear. I have never ridden a bike that stops more suddenly, though they also add complica-tion, which partly goes against the simple purity of good bicycle design. Indexed eight-speed gears work with triple front rings driven by Porsche-designed cranks. To change gear, you simply turn the handlebar grip. Pity the gears were so hadly adjusted on the test bike: most of my

wrist twists were greeted by the graunching of chains and sprockets at war.

The detailing is quite gorgeous. It is a bike that you can pore over for hours. And, to ride, it is beautifully balanced. It feels a superior product. when you take up station behind the bars. But it really isn't that much better than my five-year old Ridgeback. Which cost one-tenth as much.

The Porsche FS costs £3,400 and is available through all official Porsche dealers. 0345-911911 for more details.



RAC bike The bike that the RAC has chosen to endorse, and

decorate with its logo, is a variation of the Moulton All-Purpose Bike (or APB). Alex Moulton, who fittingly also designs car suspension systems, created the cycle to provide a more affordable complement to his very expensive AM (advanced Moulton) series of small-wheeled bicycles which are built in his own small factory. The APBs, on the other hand are made by the Midlands company Pashley to Moulton's specifications. They all share the same Moulton "spaceframe" with its characteristic small (20-inch) wheels. but they differ greatly in such matters as gearing, handlebars, tyres, brakes, wheel rims, and so on. The model chosen by the RAC is the APB7, the seven standing for the number of gears, which are selected by the new Sturmey Archer Sprinter "hub" gear an advanced version of the kind that used to be mounted on three-speed kid's bikes.

I tested the RAC bike around London, mainly on my daily eight-mile commute to the Independent's office in Canary Wharf. And, I must reveal, my first ride on it was one of the worst I can remember: the gears kept slipping up and down; the chain came off the rear cog wheel three times; the brakes squealed and the seat post kept slipping down. Still, I knew no bike could be this bad, so I took it round to the local bike shop. All the problems were to do with the "setup", and after adjustments I was soon back on the road riding a beautifully functioning machine.

There were still little problems: the saddle chafed my thigh (so I replaced it with my own), there was no bell, no lights, and no rack to carry necessities. After adding all these. I was finally ready to carry on commuting. My route to work is mainly along the Grand Union Canal towpath, which provides a good obstacle course for testing a bike. There is much stopping and starting to avoid pedestrians, fishermen and other cyclists - and the powerful cantilever "V" (vertical lever) brakes do the job very well. The surface of the towpath is made up of uneven paving stones and loose gravel, over which the wide tyres and Moulton front and rear wheel suspension floated serenely.

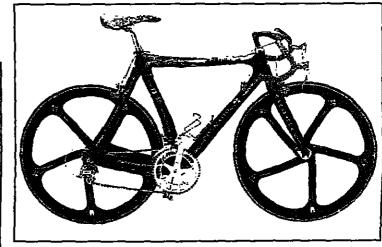
The most obvious feature of the APB is its small wheels, which provide several advantages. They are naturally strong - useful on potholed urban streets: the short overall length of the bike makes turning in and out of traffic easy; and the lowered centre of gravity makes for good balance at slow speeds and when carrying loads on the rear carrier rack. The RAC says it will be endorsing other hikes for other purposes. It has chosen wisely on the first outing; but might consider providing bell, lights and carrier racks as standard equipment. You could hardly buy a car without their automotive equivalents.

One piece of good news: the RAC intends to supply the hikes through cycle shops. To order one,

phone the RAC and they arrange for you to pick it up at a local shop where, importantly, the crucial setup job will have been done. And a piece of bad news, they won't be running a call-out service for bikes. You'll have to repair your own punctures, as did I,

The RAC bike costs £649. For more details call 01304 204256

Matthew Hoffman



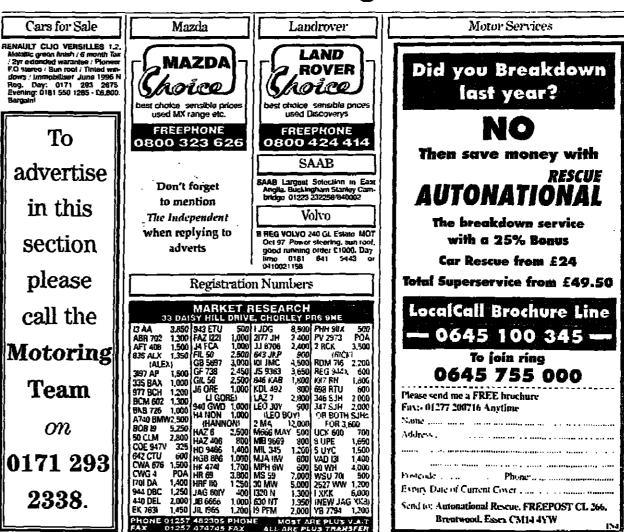
Ferrari bike

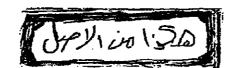
Things got off to a bad start, for me and the Ferrari. It is the first bike I have ever ridden with clip-on pedals. Despite a couple of practice goes in the back garden at releasing the special shoes from the pedals - swivel your ankle and out the shoe pops - when the £4,500 carbon-fibre framed Ferrari and I gently cruised up to the first red light at a busy intersection, the predictable happened. I fell over, Finally, I got going again. I used to cycle around nearby Richmond Park a lot a few years ago, and was soon pumping around the outer ring road. A bike that weights only 19,5lbs, including wheels, is great but the bloke who actually supplies the motive power is even more important, and it wasn't long before the engine started to let down the rest of the act. Other cyclists, on machines worth about a tenth of the Ferrari, started to edge by. To accentuate my embarrassment, this Colnago C35 Ferrari came with appalling airbrushed paintwork, a pink saddle and yellowand-red tyres. After the eight-mile Richmond Park lap, I gently rode home before discreetly putting the bike away in the dining room. The back shed would clearly have been too risky. That's another problem with mega-money bikes. Can you imagine chaining one to the railings?

The basic frame of Colnago C35 Ferrari costs £2,468. Specified to the same level as the bike tested here, the price is about £4,500. Call Pro Roce on 01243

Gavin Green

#### motoring





# homes & money

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The novelise favourite cooker has formidable rivals. Write

Rosalind

ygosis ...

Russell

# Country living, home comforts

Listed properties and their grounds are being developed for new housing, writes Penny Jackson

Sussex for a good nose around the 16thcentury tied cottage that was his home for more than 30 years. He likes to keep pace with its transformation from a damp, twobedroom house into one worth more than half a million pounds. "When I lived there it was divided into three but now it has been completely gutted so I can hardly recognise it. It used to get quite damp because the front had an old red-brick floor. I used to feed my family from the garden, but that his been bulldozed. I notice they have kept one shrub, though."

Mr McFarlane was the head gardener when the girls' school at Burton Park closed down four years ago. Now he alone keeps the gardens tidy as the magnificent Grade 1 mansion house is restored and new homes replace the old science block. At Lodge Green, in a secluded corner of the 150 acres of parkland, "Fred's Cottage", as it is fondly known, is the oldest of the five being restored. The only older building in the park is the 11th-century church. Seven new houses are being added to the hamlet that once served the estate.

Burton Park, with its medieval history, ancient trees, 18th-century ornamental lake and rare wildlife, is certainly unique, but the planning quid pro quo which provides developers with the rare chance to build in the countryside in return for rescuing a house for the national heritage has become something of a trend. Until recently grand houses have struggled to survive as hotels,

leisure centres and, of course, schools.

nce a week. Fred McFarlane leaves the flower beds of Burton Park in West cialises in restoration, is converting the Palladian mansion into 12 apartments. His work drew the attention of thieves who nearly got away with part of the magnificent Regency staircase; it was eventually tracked down to a lock-up in Portsmouth. Bondlands is providing nine homes adjoining the stable courtyard, while McAlpine is departing from its usual large developments to build 10 cottages around the original walled garden, which will be restored for the use of the owners.

Life on a country estate does not come at a snip and prices start at £175,000 in the stable courtyard. rising to £525,000 for a house at Lodge Green. It is this small group of houses, clustered around the village green and close to the nature reserve, with its rare marsh orchids, that comes closest to village life, albeit of a private, managed kind. Bewley Homes had a reservation for every house before the brochure was printed. They seem to have tapped into the insatiable demand for country living without the muck and isolation.

Derek Moore was one of the first to put his name down on the spur of the moment. "We used to bring the children for walks here and particu-larly loved the thought that we could buy a new house with some degree of customisation in a place with a history that goes back so far."

And so far, Lodge Green has avoided becoming an early retirement community or a sterile weekend haunt. There are families moving in. Two of the children will be boosting numbers at the local primary school in Duncton. For Martin Dadswell, whose house is closest to the estate, this is the A number of developers are working on Burton ultimate justification for the development. "There



are only 45 to 50 children at the school and the village needs regenerating. The village hall is moving into the sports pavilion which is very close to

Burton Park, so it could become a gathering place." Similar schemes have shown that the attractions of life in the countryside, rather than country life, are that they are risk-free in a setting of some gentility. People who have spent their lives in rambling old houses are happy to trade down to something new with character at the end of an impressive

At Northwick Park in Gloucestershire, Laura

Nudd of Hamptons International says there are only a few people with families. "We have a mix in the mansion house which includes foreign buyers, diplomats and MPs looking for bolt-holes, while the empty-nesters opt for the new build. They like the acres of grounds without the worry of a garden

or leaving the house when they go away. Tim McEvoy, sales and marketing director of Berkeley Homes, Hampshire, tells a similar story. The conversion of Leydene House, East Meon into four wings with a converted stable block alongside is selling mostly to the late-middle aged. But in the lake.

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Berkeley is trying to catch the family market by marketing heavily in Surrey the 20 detached houses being built around the grounds. "The open ... areas are sufficiently far from the houses for the

kids not to annoy anyone," he adds.

At Burton Park, the parkland is protected, which means that tennis courts are the only leisure facilities allowed. Swimming pools are out. Fred McFarlane is watching with interest the restoration of the old lily pond. "The school used that ); as a learning pool. The senior girls would swim

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# The saga's not over yet

The novelists' favourite cooker has formidable rivals, writes Rosalind Russell

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world of us!

he expensively dressed woman strode into the farmhouse kitchen, swept her gaze across the Aga and the bunches of dried lavender and rosebuds tucked along the tops of the hand-painted units, and turned to the estate agent. "I'll take it, at the asking price.

Just as it is, with everything in it." The reason, she admitted, was that she wanted people to think she was the sort of woman who could make her own dried flower swags and cook dinner for 20 without breaking sweat. The image is one that has served Aga well. But it's a fair bet that some owners usually cook on a secondary, conventional oven tucked into a less obvious part of the kitchen, and just use the Aga for posing and drying the tea towels. The makers must suspect this, too; they recently launched the Aga Companion (at a fiver under £2,000), a conventional oven in the style of a traditional range.

But the novelists' favourite castiron cooker may be in danger of becoming a cliche in the kitchen. (And who'd want to make a style mistake, when you're paying around £4,000 plus delivery and assembly?) The cookery writer and hroadcaster Sophie Grigson, who features prominently on the cover of the spring issue of Aga Magazine (free to owners with a service contract: circulation an estimated



100,000, including a copy to Princess Anne), inherited an Aga with the Northamptonshire house she bought two years ago with her husband, William Black. But Grigson has changed allegiance. She's having a new cooker installed; the Lacanche, by

Fourneaux De France. Loyd Grossman already has a Lacanche – in stainless steel. Grossman - "an oven should have two temperatures: hot and hotter"

- will have paid between £2,808 and £3,170 for his new kitchen accessory, depending on gas/electric combination.

The food writer Josceline Dimbleby decided against an Aga and bought a Lacanche "Cluny after moving into her West London

"I'd had the same kitchen for 24 years in Putney, and although it was lovely, I wanted one with the stove in the middle of the room. It meant I could look out over the table and talk to anyone who was sitting there, or see through the French doors to the garden. I planned it with a friend, who was an architect and is now a cook. Kitchens are the most difficult

go horribly wrong. Dimbleby, whose Complete Cookbook will be published by HarperCollins in the autumn, chose a stainless-steel Lacanche

things to do in any house, and can

Bruno Loubet and the Lacanche Cormatin

SHEILA FITZKONES PR

with one gas oven and one electric. "It's important to be able to test recipes in both ovens. I didn't want an Âga. I love them, but the Lacanche is ideal. My children love it, especially my son Henry. They've all grown up, but live

nearby, and it's good to know I can tempt them to come home because But the Aga saga may not be over yet. The Shropshire-based

firm (which also makes the cheaper Rayburn cooker) is fighting back. They've introduced two new colours: pewter and British racing green - though cognoscenti know that the only colour to have is cream. Bad luck Paul Daniels (yellow) and Andie MacDowell (blue).

Developers have caught on quickly, says Atty Beor-Roberts, of Knight Frank in Cirencester, the heart of Aga-land, and are installing only cream in their show homes. "Kitchens are one of the things people change first when they move into a new house," she says. "People love Agas. They'll go and view a property with one even though they don't really like the house. It causes chaos if an owner decides he's going to take the Aga with him - which he may well do, if he paid £5,000 for it. But it's like raping the house. You might as well take all the shrubs. I'd advise all fitted kitchen items be included in the sale, otherwise a buyer will say, why pay the full price if the house is not complete?"

 Other Aga owners include Tony Blair, Richard Branson, Eric Clapton, Dustin Hoffman, Rolf Harris, Nigel Mansell and Caroline

#### Three on view

Actors on the move

Ben Kingsley, the embodiment of Mahatma Gandhi is selling Pebworth House, near Stratfordupon-Avon. "Piping' Pebworth, one of

the eight Shakespearean



villages, is in the Vale of Evesham. The main wing of Pebworth House - Grade II listed - is Georgian, with wellproportioned rooms. It has six bedrooms over two floors. plus a granny flat. There are three further hedrooms in a detached cottage in the grounds. The landscaped gardens include a courtyard with a central pond and garden room with a plunge pool as well as a garage and stable block.

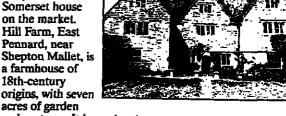
Offers in the region of £495,000 through Strutt & Parker (01608 650502) and Bigwood (01789 294114).

Rob Heyland, who played the zoo vet in the BBC series One by One, is leaving his medieval manor near Stratfordupon-Avon for Ireland, The house, four miles from Evesham, has two acres of



walled gardens with lawns, an orchard and a kitchen garden. The nine-bedroom house, with a grand hall and intact Victorian kitchen with bread oven, range and coppers is, according to its owner, a tatty but happy family home. It is four miles from Evesham, 10 from Stratford. The asking price is in the region of £345,000 through R.A. Bennett & Partners (01386 852456).

Jeffrey Holland -Spike in the TV series *Hi-de-Hi* has put his Somerset house on the market. Hill Farm, East Pennard, near Shepton Mallet, is a farmhouse of 18th-century origins, with seven



and pastures. It has a drawing room, dining room and kitchen (with Aga), and four bedrooms. An annexe, which can be used as part of the house, has its own kitchen, sitting room and bedrooms. In the grounds there is a timber-built block of three stables and tack room, and a schooling ring with floodlighting. Asking price £275,000, through Cluttons (01749 678012).

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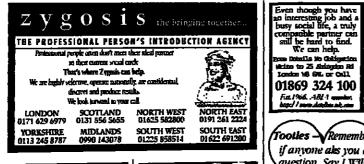
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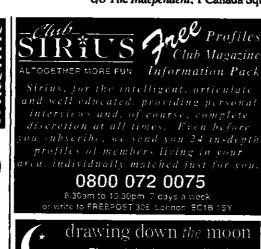














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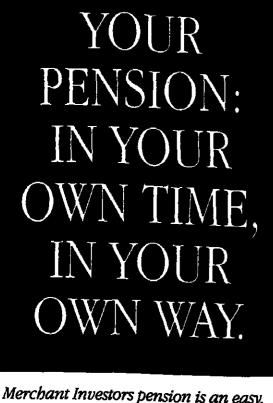
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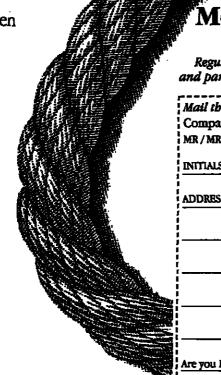
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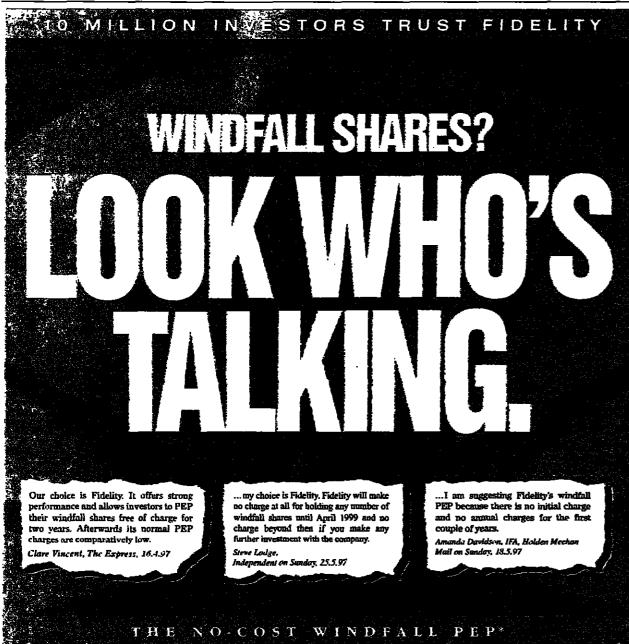
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# Estate agents are the bad guys again

#### Home buying: Unethical behaviour is back, says Nic Cicutti

t had to happen. Amid the euphoria a property developer is interested in ment to provide high levels of service and surrounding the latest wave of house-buying it; ment to provide high levels of service and to act property at all times. price increases, "knock the estate agent" stories are beginning to surface. Estate agents, who suffered through the lean years of the early to mid-1990s, now have the whip hand again. As on the last occasion, they are earning themselves the emnity of many home buyers and sellers.

The very scale of complaints from both sides led the Office of Fair Trading, which has regulatory powers over estate agents, to issue a warning this week that unless they remember their "obligations

to consumers" they may be shut down.

John Bridgeman, director-general at
the OFT explains: "There have been reports some estate agents have been failing in their duties. I would remind them that I have powers to ban them from practicing as an agent if they breach the Estate Agents Act, or to remove their consumer credit licence if they engage in improper, deceitful or oppressive practices.

Mr Bridgeman's comments follow cases where estate agents are said to have accepted a bribe from buyers to "ringfence" a property and not accept further bids. This can be attractive to an estate agent because the extra commission from a higher-priced sale is less than the potential bribe to be earned by a buyer. Other practices worrying the OFT

☐failing to declare a personal interest to a seller, such as when an estate agent does not tell the vendor that he wants to buy the property, or that an associate who is

buying it;

[failing to tell the seller that the agent has an interest in supplying services to the buyer for which he will receive payment. such as a finder's fee or commission paid on a mortgage or insurance the agent is

arranging;

| inflating the price of properties by claiming to buyers that fictitiously high prices have been bid.

This last concern reflects claims by many potential purchasers, including one who contacted *The Independent*.

The buyer, who declines to be named, says: "I was told the house, a threebedroomed semi, had come on to the market that morning. My girlfriend and I went to see it that evening. We got the very definite impression from the vendor that we were the only people who had viewed it so far. I called the estate agent the next morning and offered the asking price, subject to a surveyor's report.

"He told me there were others already prepared to pay more and that we should consider raising our offer by at least £5,000. I told him to get stuffed. He rang me back two hours later saying we could have it at the original price. We have since exchanged contracts.7

Hugh Dunsmore-Hardy, of the National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), accepts that in the current overheated market, there may be some unethical behaviour: "We welcome the decision of the OFT to clarify the legal obligations of estate agents towards their clients. It reflects our members' commit-

What makes me angry is that a tiny minority of people in this industry are ruining the reputation of the vast majority who do a good job for vendors, on whose behalf they act."

Mr Dunsmore-Hardy adds that the NAEA, together with the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) and the Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers (ISVA), have long argued for estate agents to become professionally qualified in all the legal aspects of agency, together with the skills needed to assess a property and sell it. "It seems incon-ceivable but it is possible for someone to

set himself up as an estate agent without any qualifications at all," he adds. The OFT publishes a free guide for buyers and sellers, which explains in detail the law regarding estate agents and the steps to take when deciding with whom you want to sell or buy a property.

If you are unhappy about the activities of an estate agent, it is possible to com-plain to their professional body or the Ombudsman Scheme for Corporate Estate Agents, although not all agents are members. The OFT will also investigate where it appears an estate agent has broken the law.

NAEA: 01926 4968000; ISVA: 0171-235 2282; RICS: 0171-222 7000); Ombudsmun Scheme: 01722 333306. For copies of the OFT's free guide 'Using an Estate Agent' write to PO Box 172, East Moseley, KT8 OXW, or call 0181-957 5058.



In demand: Pretty ladies and men in red coats. Three of the miniatures on sale at Christie's last month

## Small-scale buying

Collect to invest: Portrait miniatures are enjoying a revival, writes John Windsor, but only sweet faces fetch good prices

loved and hated a century or two resemble. their tiny frames. Some are but faded ghosts. Some manage a wan smile.

The market for portrait miniatures, at rock bottom since a buoyant peak 10 years ago, shows signs of perking up. Bonhams sales in February and March each sold 97 per cent by lot. At Christie's 30 years? South Kensington last month, a 1787 portrait of a young lady on ivory - with a crack down it - was fought over by several collectors before selling for £6.325, more than 12 times its pre-sale estimate of £400-£600.

Damaged goods are the last to sell during a slump but they are selling now. and auctioneers are puzzled. About 80 per cent of buyers are private collectors. They are outbidding dealers in a market that is understocked and probably undervalued. The showing of the Queen's miniatures, from next month, will help to stoke up interest.

Take a look at that unnamed young lady on ivory. Has she not a fragile beauty, in her loose white dress decked with spring flowers and with her hair backcombed in a way that would turn heads at a modern disco? A secret raver, perhaps? The artist, Diana Hill, is not a oig name. It was the sitter that bidders fell in love with.

It is looks that rule this market. Never mind the big-name artists - the prolific Richard Cosway (1740-1821) and George Engleheart (1752-1829); their ugly old men and sour-looking women can still be knocked down for a derisory £400-£600 or so at auction.

Collectors have long abandoned any pretence of political correctness: listen to the sexist and ageist language at a preperhaps the only surviving record of what a Georgian or a Victorian looked like, should have immense sentimental appeal, but they are judged like horse-

he good, the bad and the ugly: flesh - which, indeed, some of them

ago, now abandoned by their descendants, they gaze sadly from miniatures specialist Dr Bodo Hofstet-"It's like real life", says Christie's ter: "You don't buy a work of art, you buy a person. I know it sounds weird, but it's not like buying flower pictures or landscapes. Who wants to buy a grumpy or unfriendly-looking character with whom they will have to live for the next 20 or

"But look at this little girl, Mademoiselle de Courtenay, with her sad dark eyes staring straight at you probably painted for her father to take to the front. She's not better painted than most and not even signed. But she's looking straight into your heart - and your wallet. They went crazy for her."

Attributed to Luc Sicardi (1746-1825), the portrait was estimated at £2,000-£3,000 in April's sale, in line with the artist's reputation, but fetched five times more: £12,650. On the same catalogue page: an age-

ing man in a blue coat by Jean-Baptiste-Jacques Augustin (1759-1832), esteemed chief miniature painter to Louis XVIII It's among the best of his works, fully signed and dated - but it made only £6,900. Mr Hofstetter says: "At least he has a smile and a colourful cravat - and he's looking straight at you.'

That's another criterion. Averted gaze is a minus point. It is like the conniving by modern paparazzi to get more-saleable direct-gaze shots. "Look at mc. Di", they shout.

One well-known collector I spoke to - anonymous, for fear of burglary lamented: "I fell in love with an old man, beautifully painted by Sir William Ross [1794-1860]. I paid £400 for him. That was six years ago. I'd be lucky to get £600 now. Old women are even harder to get sale view. Those miniature portraits. rid of It's pretty ladies and men in red coats that people want."

The miniaturist James Scouler (1741-1812), she said, seems to have painted June (2pm). Sotheby's: provisionally 6 only ugly women. "I've come across

only two pretty ones of his." Scouler's prices are a good example of how the market has fallen in ten years. An unnamed cavalry officer in red by Scouler sold for £977 at Christie's South Kensington last month. Back in 1988 the same miniature fetched £1,540.

Now's the time to get your eye in. Why did the young lady with gold sash under her corsage - French School, circa 1815 estimated at £200-£300 at Christie's South Kensington last month, sell for £920, over three times the estimate? Because of her prominent bust, of

And why did Mrs Elliott, by the renowned Cosway, in the same sale, sell for only £287 (est £250-£350). Well, just look at her. She's thin as a rake, And probably mean, too. So it is puzzling why purse-lipped malevolent-looking portrait of Francis Owen, by the secondrank Richard Crosse (1742-1810), should have been given pride of place on the cover of Christie's April sale.

In the event, the cover picture did him more good than he did for the cover: he sold for a double-estimate £16,100. And, oddly enough, his pride of place was a backhanded result of the same old beauty contest. Since withdrawing from Geneva, Christie's alternates European and English miniatures as its cover picture. The only English alternative to Crosse's portrait would have been one by Samuel Cooper (1609-1672) of Lady Marsham. She was probably delightfully good-natured. But what a hooter.

The Queen's miniatures go on show at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, 23 July - 5 October. Forthcoming auctions: major beauty contest at Phillips, 8 July (11am) including portrait of the Dashwood children by William Wood (1769-1810), est £2,000-£3,000. Christie's 14 October (2.30pm). Christie's South Kensington 8 July (10.30am). Bonhams 25

wonders if familiar nigh dreet stores offer better financial deals

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laundings Services

am indebted to John Cuthbert, an academic and investment researcher, for some further thoughts on unit trusts, about which I wrote last week.

He has recently completed the third in a series of annual analyses of how the various unit trust management groups have performed in the previous three years. His findings raise interesting points about the way the industry is changing, the way it manages funds these days and also about what it takes to produce consistent above average performance, the Holy Grail that everyone in the business - saver and provider alike - is looking for.

Two things primarily distinguish Mr Cuthbert's analysis from most surveys of fund manager performance. One is that he is mainly interested in the overall performance of each management group's funds, rather than in which individual fund has done best

over any given time frame. Second, he uses some advanced statistical tools to try to distinguish what lies behind the success of those groups which achieve the best results. The questions he is interested in are: firstly, how much of any outperformance is due to skill, as opposed to



A small band of unit trust providers consistently outstrips the markets. But attempts to improve the industry could mean fewer star performers

luck? and secondly, how important is the way that the fund management group organises itself in securing good or bad performance?

The two key measures he uses to assess performance records are the consistency with which funds under or outperform their relevant market index over a three-year period; and the extent to which their performance deviates from the norm. The second measure he calls tracking error, and it gives an indication of how actively each fund

manger is trying to beat the market.
(If you thought they all were, think again. Although there are only a handful of explicit index-tracking funds in the UK there are also a large number of what are known as closet

indexers. These funds' managers in practice stick fairly closely to mimicking the market averages. They are hoping to beat it by a small margin, but don't want to risk underperforming it by a large margin, which could put their

careers in jeopardy.)
Mr Cuthbert's first finding should come as no surprise, since it merely confirms what has been shown many times before. This is that the majority of managers of UK equity unit trusts add no value at all, in the sense that they consistently failed to outperform the FT All Share Index across the range of their funds in the years 1994 to 1996. In fact, 58 of the 91 main fund management

groups subtracted value in this sense. However, his second finding is that

there is a small and elite group of investment management groups which have consistently added value. There are 11 firms which have outperformed the market with at least two thirds of their funds in all three of Mr Cuthbert's annual surveys. Twenty did so in the 1994-96 period alone.

Who are these paragons? Well, stripping out a couple which have been affected by takeover or other corporate changes, and ignoring firms that only sell to institutions, the list includes the following: Britannia, Jupiter, Lazards, Perpetual, Schroders, ABN Pembroke, BWD, Crédit Suisse, Prolific and NPI.

It is an interesting list, for it not only includes some of the best-known names in the retail market but also some which I hazard most people have never even heard of. (Pembroke Carrington, for example, recently bought by the Dutch bank, ABN Amro, is a small firm with an excellent long-term record but, though popular with aficionados, is largely unknown to the general public.)

In addition, there are some big names missing from the list too, such as Fidelity and M&G, both of which have had well-publicised recent difficulties. Mr Cuthbert acknowledges that his methodology tends to penalise firms such as M&G which specialise in

buying high yielding stocks rather than growth shares.

Nevertheless, nobody doubts there are a handful of firms which are simply better than others. One thing many of the best firms have in common is a distinctive investment style which they have stuck to over a long period of time. Quite often, also, the same fund managers (eg Bill Mott of Crédit Suisse, Neil Woodford at Perpetual, John Carrington and Nigel Thomas at ABN Pembroke) have stayed with their funds over a period of several years.

A secondary point that Mr Cuthbert does make strongly - and which my own observations also support - is that historic performance figures may be particularly misleading at the moment. This is not just for the well-known reason that beating the averages is hard, and that those funds which perform well in one year tend to do less well in subsequent years. It is also because behind the scenes there is and not before time - something of a revolution going on in the way that many unit trust groups are organising

their investment activities. To put it bluntly, too many unit trust groups have been poorly run over the years: investment trusts have always tended to have the better quality fund

managers. But this is at last starting to change. Don't be surprised to find a number of groups which have historically tended to do badly now start to produce rather more consistent performances in future, thanks to much improved/more

professional investment processes. Mr Cuthbert says he already detects big and probably lasting improvements in places such as Hill Samuel (now part of Lloyds TSB), Invesco, Kleinwort Benson, Save & Prosper and Eagle Star/Allied Dunbar (whose funds are to be relaunched under the Threadneedle Asset Management label).

But nor should you expect to discover many more stellar performers. The process of organising unit trust groups more efficiently will if anything, Mr Cuthbert predicts, reduce the number of fund managers who take or are allowed to take - really big bets in the market. We can look forward to generally higher standards, in other words, but fewer places where risktaking fund managers of the kind who have taken Jupiter and Perpetual to the top of the tables in recent years are given their heads.

Unit Trust Management Performance Studies, available from John Cuthben, 36 Stothart Road, Sheffield S10 IRE.

## Off the shelf

Rachel Fixsen wonders if familiar high street stores offer better financial deals

re you ready to entrust a company with your life savings just because it happens to be a dab hand at trimming fresh vegetables? If you shop at Marks & Spencer, Tesco, Virgin or Sainsbury's, you might.

These household names have been making inroads into the financial services market. Paradoxically, clients are often drawn to them precisely because their names are not associated with the muchmaligned money industry.

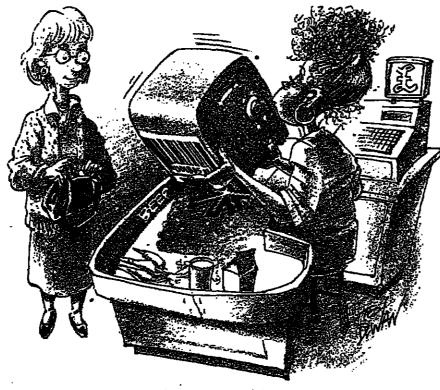
"Banks have lost the trust of the customer, and the Marks & Spencer name is synonymous with trust," says Chris: Larkin, M&S Financial Services spokesman. He cites incidents where banks have locked

Financial institutions let customers down in the 1980s by flying into the mortgage market without thinking of the consequences, and small businesses have often been dealt fatal blows when loans were suddenly called in, he adds.

M&S started offering financial services in 1985 when it launched its chargecard. Since then it has gone on to offer personal loans, unit trust investment, life and pension plans. M&S now boasts 10 per cent of the non-bank personal loan market.

The Virgin group, which made its name in the music business and went on to market condoms and launch a commercial airline, now offers a range of financial products through its Virgin Direct telephone-based service.

Supermarket giant J Sainshury launched Sainsbury's



Bank in February, offering two types of savings account and Visa credit cards. It is about to start mortgages and personal loans. The Instant Access clients into accounts, or Savings account took the stopped them from switching savings market by storm, offer-

> ally on balances over £1. There's no doubt these names have succeeded in attracting clients but do their deals justify their popularity?

> "It's purely name awareness." says Amanda Davidson financial advisers Holden Meehan. "If you have never heard of someone, you're not willing to commit your hard-earned

savings to that company." But just because a retailer is good at selling vegetables,pensions? "The answer is no. Expertise in one area is not a guarantee of expertise in another," says Ms Davidson.

Many of the products from this new breed of bankers are very long-term commitments, and their short investment track records could be a worry for some would-be customers. "I personally would like to lower-cost product,

I'd like to be sure they re committed," Miss Davidson says.

Countering this argument, Virgin, for example, points out that because its main fund aims to mirror the performance of the FTSE All Share index, it doesn't have to have been around for very long.

Mr Larkin says of course M&S financial services can't invent a track record. "But of London-based independent we've been in the business of servicing customers for more than a hundred years."

And where M&S does have an track record, it is quite good. Its UK 100 Companies Fund ranks second for performance in the past 12 months does that mean they're good at out of 154 funds in its sector, according to financial information provider MoneyFacts.

But while a company may have a familiar name and jargon-free brochures, its products might not be the cheapest around. It may be worth braving the jargon, or better still, getting an independent finan-cial adviser in order to find a

see a longer track record ... The Virgin pension, which is before I recommended them. based on unit trust investments, is very flexible - something which cannot be said for the majority of pensions. But Rothschild Asset Management and Gartmore also offer this

schild's can work out cheaper.

Unquestionably, these outsiders have shaken the financial industry out of its complacency. Big players such as Scottish Widows, Guardian Royal Exchange, Eagle Star and Legal & General now offer products which are sometimes cheaper than the newcomers. It remains to be seen, however, whether any of them retaliate by opening a new breed of chain store.

Sainsbury's Bank: 0500 405060; Virgin Direct Personal Financial Service: 0345 959595; Marks & Spencer Financial Services: 0800 3634 00/01244 681 681; Gartmore Fund Managers: 0800 289336; Eagle Star Direct: 0800 776666; Rothschild Asset Management: 0800 124314; Legal & General Direct: 0500 909090; Guardian Direct: 0800 282820; Scottish Widows: 0131 655 6000

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# MANAGED BONDS SECTOR AVERAGES Court 1 Yr The State of the St

# Tax-free but not such great value

Friendly societies fill a small investment niche, but charges are high, says lain Morse

alk to marketing people and they will often tell you that a surefire way of selling a financial product is to advertise it as tax-free. Hardly surprising then, that friendly societies are so popular among large numbers of savers.

numbers of savers.

Friendly societies grew out of medieval guilds and were first established in the 16th century as mutual self-help societies, paying benefits to members and their families in cases of illness, hardship and death. Some still restrict membership to particular trades or professions, others are open to all. The aim was to encourage people to provide for themselves.

Prior to the formation of the Welfare State they were able to extract an important concession from the taxman, namely that their savings plans would be free of any income or capital gains tax

income or capital gains tax.

Their history helps explain why the upper limit on premiums is fixed at £25 per month, or an annual premium of £270, with only one plan allowed per saver. The rules on policies are similar to life company endowments: premiums must be paid for seven and a half years on a 10-year term, or for 10 years on any longer term.

on any longer term.

Their tax-free status means that fund performance should be competitive both with insurance company endowments and PEPs. Many societies cater to the less well off, with minimum monthly premiums in single figures. But do they give value for money?

Answering this question is not easy. The limit on premiums gives a clue to the main weakness, for there are fixed costs to administering each policy regardless of premium level.

A comparison of charges and early surrender values among five larger societies gives a clue to future performance. The figures below assume a 10-year plan with monthly premiums of £25 and growth before charges of 9 per cent.

charges of 9 per cent.

The left hand of these columns shows actual cash deductions from the £3,000 invested over the policy term. These vary a good

deal, but the next column shows their effect, firstly in reducing an assumed yield of 9 per cent. The third column shows prospective returns after such deductions, while the fourth gives the differing charges levied by each

The way these charges are levied is also important. Some societies load charges at the start of a policy, others spread them more evenly. Front-loaded charges have a greater effect in reducing maturity values. Either way, if you surrender a policy within the first five years, you are unlikely to recover even the premiums paid.

For example, savers would receive no premiums back after the first year if they invest with Tunbridge Wells, Scottish Friendly or Family Assurance. Liverpool would pay back £159 out of £300 paid in, while Homeowners would return £116. By the fifth year, the return of premiums, even assuming 9 per cent growth ranges

between £1,260 and £1,550.

These figures also indicate why some societies with high initial charges still deliver good results for savers who pay to maturity: the money taken off those who surrender early is used to swell

remaining investors' funds.

None of this says much about actual performance.

Tunbridge Wells, with some of the higher charges shown, have consistently good results on its with-profits fund. The same is true of Scottish Friendly.

A different picture emerges if we look at the past performance of managed equity funds run by Family Assurance, with 10 annual premiums of £100 maturing at £1,472 in 1997. This compares to a return of £2,196 from Perpetual's PEP which has the same tax advantages.

advantages.
Friendly society plans
cannot be used to secure a
mortgage. Early encashment
is heavily penalised. Charges
remain high. So where do they
belong in a savings portfolio?
The answer must be that they
fill a niche in the market for
small savers and can be used
to meet specific future needs.
As for being friendly—well,
yes. But at a cost.

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Ho	w the s	societie	s compa	ire 💮
.De	ductions	Yield	Payout.	Changes
Liverpool Victoria	416	<b>.</b> 6	4,060	
Tunbridge Wells	709	. 4.	3,670	
Scottish Friendly	408	5.8 -	4,020	
Family Assurance	454	5.8	4030	
Homeowners	598	4.7	3080	4



loose change

Woolwich has launched a Premier Instant account paying variable rates starting at 3 per cent gross on savings below £499, rising to 5 per cent gross for deposits above £100,000. One free withdrawal per month is allowed. Details from branches.

Money World, the personal finance Internet website, is extending its free share-price service, provided in conjunction with Prestel On-line. From Monday, FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 share prices updated every 20 minutes up to 6pm. From July all share prices will appear on the pages. The service is available on www. moneyworld.co.uk/stocks.

moneyworld.co.uk/stocks.

Sainsbury's Bank has added personal loans to the services it offers customers.

Loans of up to £4,999 are available at a flat rate of 13.7 per cent APR, falling to 12.7 APR on sums borrowed of up to £15,000. The loans

have an initial three-month repayment "holiday". Call 0500 707070.

Yorkshire Building Society is launching a cashback offer worth up to £5,000 on its cashback mortgages. The deal provides both a cashback worth up to 2 per cent cash offer on a maximum loan to value of 90 per cent, plus a 1 per cent discount on Yorkshire's variable rate for one year, currently standing at 7.29 per cent. Call 0800 378836.

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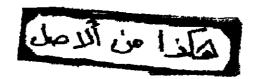
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First National, the largest building society in Ireland, is increasing rates paid to UK savers. Balances in its 90-day notice account have risen 0.25 per cent to 7 per cent on balances over £50,000. Savers who open a account before December will also receive a £200 travel voucher. Call 0800 558844.



# Such NAMES: Danny McEvoy and Pauline Evals AGE: Both 34 OCCUPATIONS: Teacher and care worker THE PROBLEM: Danny bought a leaschold studio flat in Brighton for £30,000 in June 1991, with a 100 per mortgage from Royal Bank of Contland Shortly after moving in, Makeover: A teacher is faced with soaring service charges With soaring service charges It is import that the free power to obt the LVT my into account is that one freeholder

converted building, which covers 24 leaseholders in all, would be billing him for service charges of £95 every six months, which he

accepted as reasonably fair. A year later, the freehold to the building was bought by Anthony Scrivens, who operates through a web of companies, including Adelaide Homes (Sussex) and Adelaide Property Management.

Within months, service charges began to climb. By 1994, they reached £275 each half-year. The bill levied that year by Mr Scrivens on members of the entire building included £60 a month for cleaning. rent for the television aerial of £641 a year and £300 a month management fees. Mr Scrivens, by happy coincidence, not only owns but manages the building.

If there were any significant repairs to the building, such as almost £5,000 for roof repairs in 1994, Mr Scrivens levied an additional 10 per cent works' management fee. Last year, the leaseholders were landed with a £27,000 paint job to the outside of the Leashold hassles: Danny McEvoy property, a job which a independent surveyor hired by the leaseholders describes as poor.

At this point, Danny felt enough was enough. He and Pauline decided to organise the other tenants. But when they tried to get a Rent Assessment Panel (RAP), a statutory body, to recognise them as a residents' association Mr Scrivens blocked recognition by arguing the ownership of the building is separated into two parts. Then, the fact that Pauline is not formally a resident proved a further legal sturnbling block.

The leaseholders want Mr Scrivens to sell the freehold to to the Rent Assessment Panel and them at a fair rate, but cannot force getting themselves appointed as a him to because of legal problems. He offered it to them for £48,000, much more than they felt is fair. He then reduced it to £29,000.

Meanwhile, workmen have fitted a felt roof, similar to that used on garden sheds, because the block's original roof blew off last year.

Danny and Pauline want to know what to do.



PHOTOGRAPH: ANDREW HASSON

for a determination as to whether

Tenants have always had the

right to seek a new manager for the

freehold property, but the right has

been extended quite radically and

it is a much easier procedure to

obtain now. The cost of an appli-

cation to an LVT has not yet been

set but is unlikely to be above £500.

has been passed by Parliament

but it has not yet come into effect.

The signs are that it will come into

force in July.

Leasehold Valuation Tribunals

THE ADVISER: Tim Curran, a under law. One option is to apply to chartered surveyor and director of the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal Leasehold Enfranchisement Ltd, a firm which advises leaseholders (London area only) on extending for an appointment of a manager, leases and buying their own free-holds. Address: 33 St George's Drive, London SWIV 4DO (0171-

THE ADVICE: "There appears to have been a history of service Tenants have always had charge problems with this block of flats and it does seem to me, without knowing every detail, that some of the charges are excessive.

As for the problems with regard residents' association, I am sure the RAP's interpretation of the law, disappointing as it may seem, is probably correct. I imagine what is happening is that the freeholder is employing a professional, such as a solicitor, and they are following the letter of the law quite closely.

There are a number of recourses which these leaseholders could take disputes between landlords and were talking to Nic Cicutti.

that the freeholder does have the power to object to this process and the LVT must take its point of view into account. A potential problem is that once the order is made the freeholder can still ask for that order to be changed or varied after

tenants. They have a range of powers which include setting prices

for lease extensions and deter-

mining on the appointment of new

It is important to note, however,

managers for the property.

a certain period of time Although the LVT has the power to appoint another manager, it may be easier for the leaseholders to exercise another legal right, that of purchasing the freehold - known as collective enfranchisement. At least that settles

the problem once and for all. This is also subject to negotiation over the exact price between both parties. If they fail to agree, a final judgment is made by the LVT. But here, the leaseholders must be prepared to pay for the freeholder's reasonable costs, which may include surveyors' reports and lawyers, in any appearance before the LVT

However, there are also legal restrictions on the right to buy a freehold which unfortunately appear to affect this property. This is because one leaseholder, a business operating on the ground floor, takes up more than 10 per cent of the floor space. Therefore, the leaseholder must negotiate a reasonable price. My view is that in this case, such a move would be cost-effective in the long run and, given the freeholder appears willing to sell, negotiations should be initiated.

service charges are reasonable and As for the likely price, there is already guidance from previous LVT decisions, although they are either themselves or a third party, to take over the running.

The freehold is still owned by not legally binding in this case."
THE VERDICT: "The problem is the landlord but this would neuthat we don't trust Mr Scrivens. He

could take us down the path of

negotiation, incurring huge solicitor's charges and then pull out. As far as the LVT is concerned, July is too late by far. Leaseholders should have the right to apply for a decision now. We would also like to see the right to manage, as The relevant legislation allowing this, under the Housing Act 1996, spelt out in the Government's paper, 'An End to Feudalism',

applied immediately. Meanwhile, we will carry on paying just the ground rent, wait until the LVT acquires its new powers and then lodge an applica-(LVTs) are an arbitration body set tion for a change in management." Tim Curran and Danny McEvoy up by government to adjudicate on

Nic Cicutti

f there is a common thread to the many plaintive remarks made to personal finance journalists by the insurance industry, it is that we tend to underestimate the sterling work they carry out on behalf of their policyholders.

A nice

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except

investor

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little

Whenever I begin to waver and find myself agreeing with this view, a reader's letter brings me back to earth. One this week comes from Dr Fergal O'Driscoll, a GP based in Lowestoft.

Dr O'Driscoll joined his partnership in 1987 and spoke to a financial adviser. The adviser suggested a nifty little scheme by a company called Scottish Equitable. This involved borrowing £40,000 from Scottish Equitable itself, with equity in the surgery used as collateral for the loan.

The insurer would then invest the money it was advancing Dr O'Driscoll for 10 years and pay him the proceeds at the end of that period. Meanwhile, the good doctor would carry on paying interest on the loan to Scottish Equitable

In theory, the investment gains would pay off the loan plus the interest and leave a tidy additional sum for Dr O'Driscoll. Scottish Equitable's literature at the time suggested in bold letters that he might earn net returns of up to 33 per cent.

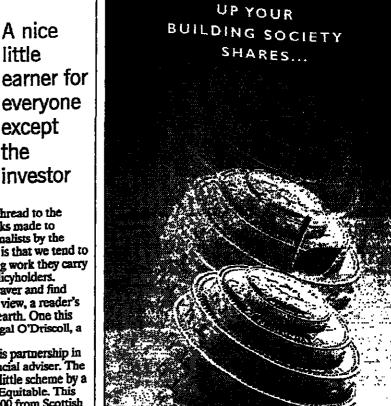
It hasn't quite worked out that way. Last month, Dr O'Driscoll received a letter from Scottish Equitable in which it informed him that the returns on his £40,000 investment would be £61,000 at maturity next year, which is actually £2,000 less than the interest paid on the loan over this period.

Other members of the surgery who took the same advice and have invested up to £120,000 more, face similar losses.

What we have, in effect, is a situation where the "adviser" made one heck of a lot of commission on the total investment by all the doctors - at least £7,500. Scottish Equitable has made a fat profit too out of Dr O'Driscoll's money and that of his partners. The only people to have suffered are the investors themselves.

Scottish Equitable, according to a special report about which I wrote last week, is currently refusing to provide statistical information on its products to Money Marketing, a specialist financial paper. Its refusal supposedly stems from the fact that it no longer markets withprofits endowments of the type sold to Dr O'Driscoll and his partners.

With returns of barely 50 per cent over 10 years on the money invested, one might suppose that the real reason is that Scottish Equitable feels a sense of shame at its poor performance.



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ax advisers share at least one feature with doctors. We are usually asked at parties, once our profession is discovered, about curing a pain that is troubling someone. The pain in question is fiscal rather than physical: the question is usually posed as: "How do I

get out of paying tax?" One immediate reaction is: "leave the country". Although a bit flip, it underlies a serious point. Going non-resident, or varying your residence status in some way, can significantly affect your tax bill.

There are probably three variants to look at: leaving the country altogether; still working here but only for part of the time; and working here, but not as a full citizen. As in all the best game shows, we'll take them in reverse order.

There are a lot of people working in this country who do not pay tax on all their income. Why not? Because they are non-domiciled. Here we need to introduce a couple of definitions: residence is physical being if you're in the UK for over half the tax year, you're "resident". Be here generally, and you are 'ordinarily resident".

"Domicile" is your real home. It's a funny concept in many ways - it isn't necessarily the country of your birth, though that is usually the start point. You can change during life; in the end, where you intend to be buried is an oft-quoted guide to your domicile. For example, many will remember Sir Charles Clore, the founder of Sears. Towards the end of his life, he left the UK and started to live in Monaco - but he had not completely shed his UK connections. Accordingly he was still UK domiciled when he died - and his estate fell into inheritance tax.

The income tax advantage of domicile is that if you are resident here but not UK domiciled, then you pay tax on non-UK income and gains basically only to the extent that you remit them to the UK. This helps a lot of expatriates who are working in the UK - and contributes to the UK being an attractive place for foreign investment. It requires care to manage your affairs to best effect -

and, of course, it can mean that some income is left to be taxed "back home", which could even result in higher

If you are UK domiciled, you may decide that you can do your work other than by daily attendance at the office. The thought of avoiding the daily battle with train/Tube/car is attractive. So how about basing yourself in, say, Jersey, and working from there? Electronic links now make it far easier to contemplate doing many tasks remote from the office. Being resident in Jersey means being taxed there and you would still be able to come over to the UK from time to time, without becoming resident here.

The Inland Revenue would regard you as resident here if you were here for 183+ days; or if you made "regular and substantial" visits to the UK. Come here for 91+ days a year and you would definitely be in: shorter periods might still

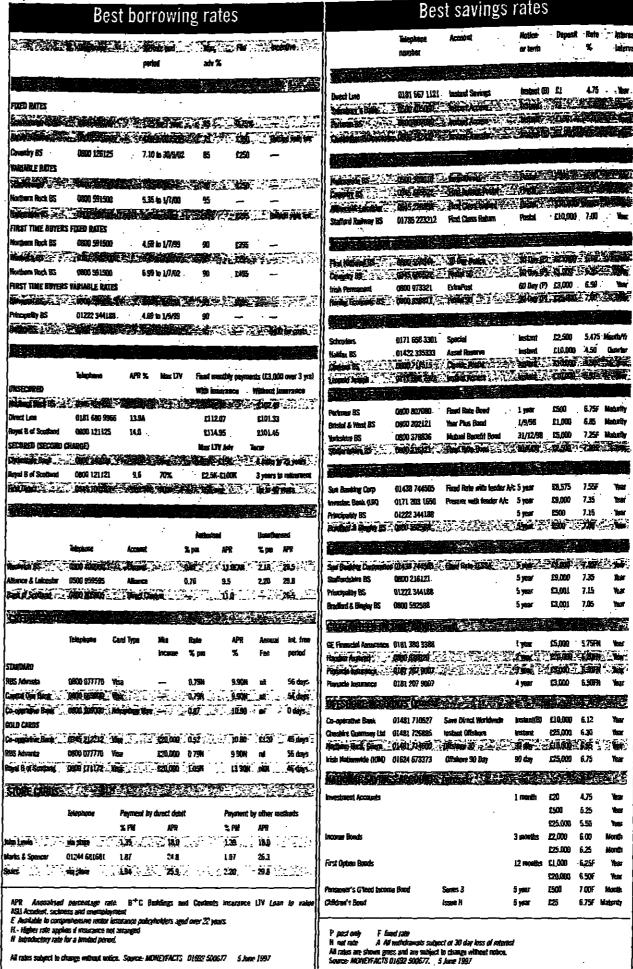
lead to your being caught. Having a house here and visiting it during the year does not of itself make you resident, as it once did; but there are 19th-century cases to suggest you can be resident without even setting

foot in the UK in the year. If you are contemplating this route, the basic first step is to be resident somewhere other than the UK - and control your visits here. (As a day counts for residence purposes by being here at midnight, you can achieve a lot with a fast plane - but it's not an area to try to abuse.)

So what about leaving altogether? This thought often occurs to people who are facing a large capital gains bill. To establish nonresidence you need to have a full-time job abroad for at least a full tax year, or to be out for at least three years. So it's not just a question of a night in Calais to offload your shares CGT-free.

Incidentally, this whole area is one that the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, is looking at - not necessarily to change on 2 July, but if you are thinking of taking advantage of the rules in this area, do bear in mind that changes may well happen before too long.

The writer is a tax partner at Price Waterhouse



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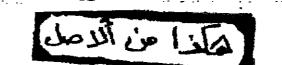


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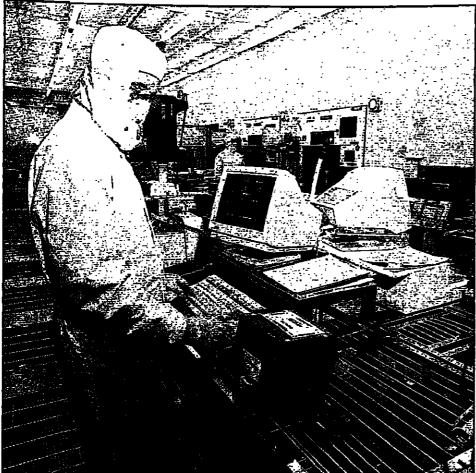
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Pension peace of mind: Scheme members must be told about investment strategies

#### The risks they take with our money

isk is one of the most critical issues to be confronted in relation to both investment and pension planning. It is a worrying conundrum for investors and trustees alike. So, how is a trustee to cope with balancing risk and the need to safeguard pension assets for members? And how can pension scheme members know what trustees are doing on their behalf?

Statistics only tell one side of the story. One hundred pounds invested in equities in December 1918 with all income reinvested was worth £710,556 in December 1996, according to BZW, the investment house. The equivalent figures for gilts and cash were £8,917 and £6,101 respectively. Yet equities are considered far more risky investments, and the penalties for making a mistake are huge.

Investment managers are, anyway, like race horses - they need guidelines. Otherwise, they may be tempted to go for more speculative investments than trustees would like. Alternatively, if they are wrongly informed about the pension scheme, they may be overly conservative.

To answer these dilemmas, the new Pensions Act requires trustees to draw

#### **Pensions:** Stephanie Hawthorne reports on trustees' new duties

contain details on how trustees choose investments, on the types of investment held and the balance between them.

It should provide guidelines on the preferred approach to risk, likely return and the realisation of investments, and the need for diversification, and how the fund will comply with the minimum funding requirement (MFR).

The SIP should also be available for members to see on request and be quoted in the annual report. Certainly, it should be more accessible than the "chairman's bottom drawer". Failure to have an SIP in place may now result in trustees being disqualified by the pen-sions watchdog, Opra, and fines may be imposed.

Nick Fitzpatrick, a partner at actuaries Bacon & Woodrow, says: Cumbersome and bureaucratic they [SIPs] may be, but even in the best run funds, trustees have been forced to look carefully at some neglected corners of their portfolios and management arrangements."

investment principles (SIP). It should welcomes the new proposals: "Much pension fund investment to date has been subject to uncertain objectives and follow-my-leader style decisions; making investment decisions for the wrong or poorly defined reasons is obviously a had idea."

Trustees also have to state their policy on complying with the minimum funding requirement (MFR) introduced by the Pensions Act to give members greater security. MFR aims to ensure that, whatever happens to the employer, salary-related schemes have enough money in them to meet the pension rights of the members. If the pension scheme is wound up, there should be enough assets for pension payments to continue and to provide all younger members with a cash value of their pension rights.

If the money in the scheme is less than this minimum level, the employer will need to put in more money. The time limit for restoring schemes' fund levels to at least 90 per cent and 100 per cent of the MFR is one year and Philip Christison of Towers Perrin five years respectively.

The MFR itself is a compromise. Keith Ternent, of actuaries Buck Consultants, says: "Purists may object to such a standard on the grounds it does not absolutely guarantee the required benefits on a winding up. But it is a stan-

dard, where none has existed before." One problem is that some funds may switch from more volatile, but better performing equities to poorer, but more predictable, investments. A typical pension fund's current holding of gilts under the new proposals might increase from 10 to 13 per cent of assets.

So far, the stock market has hardly quivered at the news. But mature funds, that is those with many pensioners or employees nearing retirement or with many people being made redundant, will have to invest heavily in gilts or other matching assets. These proposals could require employers to invest an extra £300m to £400m a year in UK pension funds until the MFR is

fully in place between 2002 and 2007. Even so, for most well-run pension schemes MFR will be a question of nuance and good practice. But pensioners will eventually have more protection at a reasonable price.

Stephanie Hawthorne is the editor of

#### Is there a way to beat the Budget?



the date of the

t long last we know Budget. And we have yet another break in tradition. This will be the first Budget to be held

expected it next week. The delay could be significant. Chancellor Brown has said that he wished to flick through the country's finances carefully before deciding what action to take. Checking the books took longer than he expected, so it looks as though we can expect some

on a Wednesday. We

real measures in July. Fortunately, there is plenty of time to plan. Wily investors should be taking avoiding action this month. Here are a few tips for

beating the Budget. Personal equity plans: it is hard to see the Chancellor dispensing with this valuable savings vehicle, but you

never know. Most financial planners believe that the worst he could do is to cap the total amount that can be invested. or restrict the income tax breakthrough with advanced corporation tax

Either way, there seems to be nothing to be lost by taking your full allowance for PEPs out now, rather than waiting, as many do, until the end of the tax year.

A general and single PEP for a husband and a wife can tuck £18,000 out of the taxman's reach, no bad move when you consider that this Government is likely to be less sympathetic towards investors than the last one was.

Capital gains tax: some change here has already been signalled, but it is worth bearing in mind that it is already an onerous tax. However, the Chancellor seems to wish to make a distinction between longterm investors and shortterm speculators; we may see the reintroduction of short-

term capital gains tax. Of course, that will mean little if it remains tied to income, given that the Chancellor has pledged not to raise the top rate of tax.

So it may be that a more punitive level of taxation will be introduced to remove some of the profit from those fortunate enough to make a large gain relatively swiftly.

Those with long memories will recall that the original. short-term capital gains tax was levied at the confiscatory income tax rates that applied back in the Sixties.

This introduced a massive distortion into the timing of transactions, but politicians do not usually have such long memories.

Of course, it may be pointless to incur tax charge now, simply to avoid the

Second guessing the Chancellor's plans is tricky, but it's worth a try

risk of higher taxes being imposed later, but if you do have a large short-term gain, it may be as well to mop up this year's exemption before the end of the month.

Bonuses: thanks to, among others, the directors of the company operating the National Lottery. I would not be surprised to see some move made against those who are rewarded with high bonus pay-outs as part of their remuneration package. For the City such a move

is probably too late - most

bonuses are paid between January and March to reflect the profits made in the previous calendar year - but if you are likely to benefit from an employer's munificence, it may be as well to encourage him to put the payment into this month's pay packet. Again. nothing may happen, but you

never can tell. Inheritance tax: this was a tax that John Major, when he was prime minister, said he would like to see abolished. Not much chance here, I am afroid.

However, it has been described as a voluntary tax by some financial planners. so the Chancellor may seek to close any potential loopholes.

Frankly, unless you are seriously wealthy and with money to burn, there is probably not a lot that can be done, except possibly using annual exemption and gift allowances. And if you possess the kind of wealth that is likely to make the Chancellor's eyes light up with glee, you have probably tucked it away in foreign

trusts already. Now that you are all planned and Gordon Brownproof, you can start worrying about where the market goes from here. Opinion is divided.

Some consider that new highs both on Wall Street and in London will be posted as the year progresses. Others believe that Nemesis waits just around the corner.

America holds the key, but we may just have a nudge from next month's Budget as well. Talk is rife of a windfall bonanza for builders, travel agents and the like, courtesy of the newly-floated building

societies. The Chancellor may well step in to dampen consumers' enthusiasm next

Dampen it too much, and the market may take it amiss. regardless of what is happening in Bill Clinton

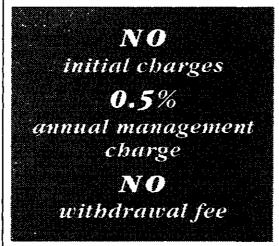
The writer is chairman of the Greig Middleton Investment Strategy Committee, and can he contacted on 0171-655

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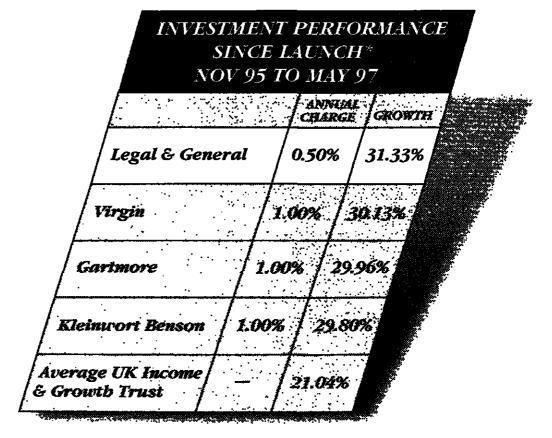


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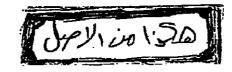


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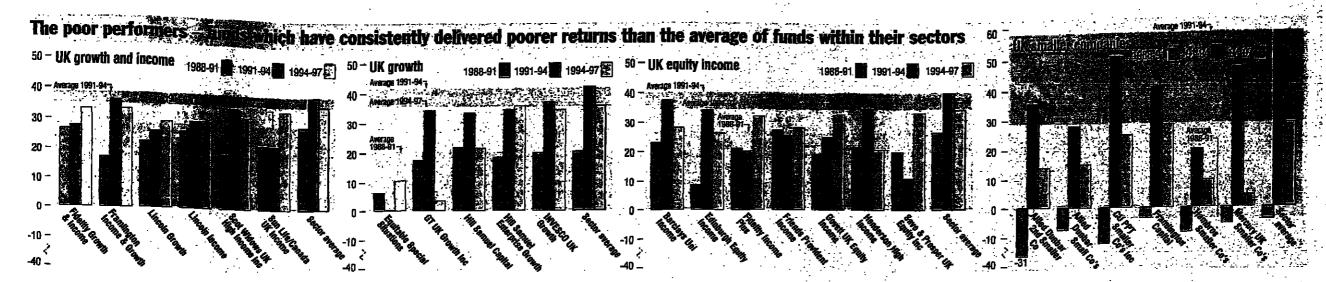
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## Dogfights over PEP performances



rigin Direct, the financial services arm of Richard Branson's airline to cola business empire, likes to get up its rivals' noses. This week has been no exception.

The company published a list of 24 personal equity plans available from its main competitors, which it called "Superdogs" on the grounds that they have consistently underperformed over the past nine years compared with the average of their peers. Virgin is offering to pay any transfers or exit penalties incurred if people switch from these socalled Superdog PEPs into either its

tracker or its income PEP plan. But behind Virgin's claims are important questions all savers should ask about PEPs that have not delivered hoped-for returns.

Put simply, Virgin's unanswerable argument - backed by all the experts - is that if a person makes an investment, waits for a discrete number of years but the fund it is time to sell up.

Tony Wood, marketing director

Virgin's 'Superdogs' list of limping funds has angered many managers. But investors should be prepared to switch, says Nic Cicutti

pared to put such disproportionate efforts into buying a new PEP when so often it is their existing PEPs which should be getting the most attention. Hundreds of thousands could be better off by trans-

ferring their PEP."
How does one measure performance? Increasingly, experts prefer to look at discrete investment periods, perhaps three, five or even twoyear cycles. This allows statisticians to check how often a fund appears within the top half or even the top 25 per cent of funds in its sector.

Virgin has chosen to focus on its rivals' performance by parcelling up the past nine years into three separate periods - April 1988 to

at Virgin Direct, says: "It has always April 1991; April 1991 to April amazed me that people are pre- 1994; and April 1994 to April 1997.

Peter Edwards, a founder of Premier Unit Trust Brokers, a firm of investment experts in Bristol, says: "One could argue that they have chosen fairly long cycles, but at least it allows us to see how a fund has performed in the short, medium and long term."

Virgin then looks at the performance of PEP funds within four sectors: UK growth and income, UK growth, UK equity income and UK smaller companies, checking how the companies performed within each sector during each of the three-year periods.

Figures from HSW, the specialist investment statistics provider. match the average performance sector may not be doing well, the achieved by rivals within their sectors in any of the three-year cycles.

Among the under-achievers are PEPs run by many big industry names, including Fidelity, Framlington, GT, Hill Samuel, Invesco, Edinburgh, Henderson, Save & Prosper, Hambros and Mercury, plus a number of life companies. including Allied Dunbar. Virgin contrasts their allegedly poor performance with its own two funds, both of which have delivered good returns to investors since their

launch in the past two years. The question therefore is: should you switch out of the Superdogs? If so, which funds should you look at? Here, the consensus disintegrates.

Mr Edwards says there are a number of issues to be considered: For example, during a recession the UK smaller companies sector is not likely to do particularly well. If the economy recovers, as it appears to be at present, the sector has the potential to outperform."

To which Tony Wood at Virgin reveal that 24 PEP funds failed to replies: "Even if we accept that the

the specific fund is doing within it."

Mr Edwards' second point is about how fund performance is assessed: "If you have money in an income fund, then you might be prepared to accept a lower capital return. High income may require accepting a higher degree of risk, which may be acceptable." Mr Wood accepts this may be an issue for some, but argues most fund managers aim for a good overall

delivering a decent income stream. Another issue is whether some (or any) of the so-called Superdogs deserve to be ranked in this manner and whether, after years in the

fund performance in addition to

doldrums, they are now improving. Michael Ashbridge, investment director at Save & Prosper, whose UK Equity Income fund figures on the list, says: "Since 1992 we have changed the team and put in place new investment process.

"As we have gained confidence we have taken bigger positions on the basis of our strategy, which

means that our performance is accelerating.

He adds that between January last year and the end of May this year, the S&P fund ranked eighth in its sector. If so, S&P's Equity Income PEP may be on the mend.

A similar picture is presented by Paul Kafka, executive director at Fidelity, whose Growth & Income and Income Plus funds also figure among the alleged Superdogs. Mr Kafka says: "Our two funds named did suffer from poor performance. But over the last year or two, it has improved very significantly."

Moreover, he seems to suggest. Virgin is comparing apples and pears: "Between February 1996 and May this year our tracker fund has grown by 23.1 per cent com-pared with 20.6 per cent at Virgin." Mr Kafka dismisses Virgin's

promise to pay investors' surrender penalties, by pointing out that Fidelity does not levy them: "Virgin's comments come at a time when Fidelity has succeeded in attracting 25,000 new free-share windfall investors into its PEPs

because of our highly competitive charges. We are disappointed that

they are behaving in this way."

Irrespective of Virgin's specific claims, its argument that investors should be prepared to switch is endorsed by Peter Edwards.

Premier keeps a list of "Black" and "White" funds for both income and growth unit trusts, based on assessments of dividend and capital growth over the past five years. Investors who ditched "Black" companies and opted for those on Premier's "White" list would have enjoyed significant outperformance.

The lesson, according to Mr Edwards, is that it does make sense to clear out your poor performing funds. But Virgin, though it has rightly sparked a debate on this issue, does not hold a monopoly on good fund management expertise.

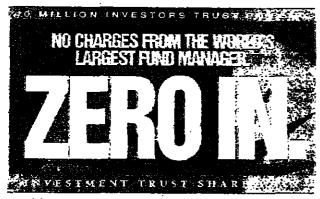
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appened to

When you do switch funds, it pays to take good independent advice as to which funds might suit you equally well - or better.

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## Mortgage lenders raise rates with haste

A fter the free shares euphoria comes the pain, as millions of borrowers discovered yes-Share windfalls terday. Just as members of the Alliance & Leicester, Halifax, Norwich Union and Woolwich prepare to spend the free shares they are receiving from their companies' stock market flotations, along rates, reports comes the sting in the tail. In a bid to rein back inflationary Nic Cicutti

pressures within the economy, the Bank of England yesterday pushed up interest rates a further 0.25 per cent. The response by lenders to the followed suit. including Chelbase rate increase was immediate. tenham & Gloucester. Abbey

Halifax said it was raising its variable mortgage rate for new borrowers right away from 7.6 to 7.95 per cent, a 0.35 per cent increase typical £50,000 interest-only loan will increase savings rates at the by £13 a month. Other lenders also same time. But they are refusing to

helped prompt the lastest rise in interest base

National and the Coventry.

The new rate will apply to existing borrowers from 1 July. Unlike the last month, banks and building which will push up the cost of a societies are promising that they

PERSONAL PENSIONS

commit themselves to push up savings rates by the same amount.

The rise comes hard on the heels of last month's increase, leaving borrowers paying off a £50,000 loan with an extra £26 a month to pay within a few weeks. The increase has surprised few

mortgage experts, however. Alan Mudd, sales manager at John Charcol, the UK's largest mortgage broker, says it predicts, if anything, that the upward movement in mortgage rates will continue.

He says: "We think that inflationary pressures within the economy will continue and probably intensify. We have just had the Halifax flotation this week, the Alliance & Leicester last month, and two more flotations later this month.

"There will be many millions of years, until June 1 1999.

people with upwards of £1,400 each to spend, assuming that up to a quarter do sell their shares immediately. Experience indicates that most of that money will be spent on consumer goods, foreign holidays and cars, which tends to increase inflationary pressures."

John Charcol is predicting variable mortgage rates will be between 8.25 and 8.75 per cent by the end of this year, with no fall expected until the middle of next year, if then.

For borrowers and new homebuyers, the pressure is on to hunt down a decent fixed-rate mortgage before they are all withdrawn by lenders and priced upwards over the next few weeks. Portman Building Society is presently marketing a 6.75 per cent rate, fixed for two

Other options for borrowers include discounted rates, where the mortgage is pegged 1 or 2 per cent below the prevailing variable rate for one or two years. Both Leeds & Holbeck and Yorkshire Building Society have attractive discounted mortgages.

For those prepared to take a longer view, Birmingham Midshires is offering a "capped" mortgage, where rates will not rise above 7.99 per cent for the next five

However, Mr Mudd adds that although most borrowers will be cursing the latest increases, it is still important to view them in perspective: Historically, mortgages are still relatively cheap. In the last 25 years, the average rate is just over 11 per cent, so this is not the end of the world."

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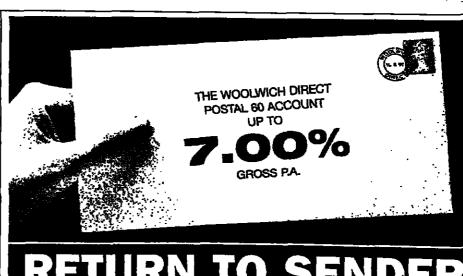
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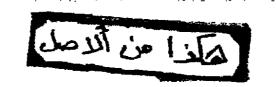
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#### TO FIND OUT WHAT'S ON TV, WHERE TO GO AND WHEN, READ TODAY'S . CYC



I had a Purple Haze and a Foundation Vodka Punch and my notes say something like "vod gin blue curac dsh pnk snaps lem lim eggwht Imnd grenad"

very hack wonders sometimes if it's all worth it. Every now and again, you get an assignment so tough you have to spend the next day in bed to recover. In-depth research can leave you with all the sweating, queasy, head-

achey signs of major illness.

I conducted some in-depth research on Wednesday with Ian Wisniewski, the vodka man. Ian and Nicholas Faith have just completed an exhaustive survey of the spirit under the title Classic Vodka (Prion 23-carat gold in deference to a round of Dirty Martinis. Books, £9.99). Aha! I thought. That'll make a feature. Quick interview, run-down on the qualities that differentiate the tipple of kings from the stuff swigged in bus sta-

tions. Ian had a better idea. "I'll meet you in the Tsar's Bar, he said. Then you can have a practical demonstration."

It started beautifully. Six o'clock at the Langham Hilton. white suit with shocking pink accessories. Ian, cool, blonde and immaculate, sat maj-

estically at a table. A nice man pushing a trolley disguised as a dressing table - scent bottles and powder-puff jars full of olives - made a "Tsartini" with a jalapeno in it. It did wonders for the chest hairs. I found my notebook. "So tell me about vodka. Was it difficult research-

the other brimming with Blavod, which is black. "It's fascinating. Every vodka has a story attached to it." He spent much of last year in the Warsaw distilleries. "It was great fun. Although sometimes it got a bit strange when you found yourself swigging 96degree proof vodkas just after breakfast. They don't provide spittoons, you know. It would be rude to use one."

An iced bowl of shots of Sibirskaya, Gorilka, Wyborowa and the bar's own Fruits of the floating in the bottom. I fished

DAMIEN HURTS.... and his painfully creative struggle

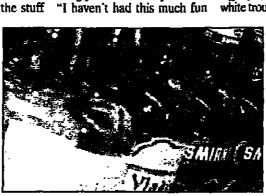
THANKS! IT'S A MOVING

PIECE!

"Gorilka is the Ukrainian for burning," he said. "They have loads of different flavours from dinavian mostly wheat. The Poles grow a special type of high-starch potato specifically for vodka-making." We sam-pled some Bison Grass ("You can't cultivate it. The yields are lower than if you harvest it from the wild") and Goldwasser, which contains flakes of

metal's medicinal properties. Everything was going swim-mingly. "This is lovely." I said.

the medieval belief in the



doing a piece in years." "Perhaps." he said, "We should haps," he said, "We should have Martinis," "You're the expert," I replied. We poured into a cab, which took us to the Metropolitan.

The Met is jolly, red and full

of bucket chairs. The bucket

chairs are full of burns you have ing the book?"

"Oh, no," he replied. A pair of glasses appeared, one filled with stuff called "Seriously",

sneaking feelings you should recognise. The exhausted blonde next to us turned out to be Mariella Frostrup. We perched on stools. Mine seemed to have a wobble. Ian tried it. It didn't wobble for him. An army of crop-haired young men in - get this - black Donna Karan uniforms moved and shook, dashing vermouth from vinegar shakers into glasses and throwing it out again. They have three sizes of glass - mini, medium and greedy - and 24 Martinis on their list. We started with a Polish, moved on to a Sake, which had a twist of cucumber peel

Forest landed in front of us. it out with my finger and chewed it.

A raspberry and a meion Martini later, I was assuring the raw ingredients. Polish is him that vodka was the only mainly rye, Russian and Scan- drink I'd ever touch. "It's all delicious. Everything. All wonderful." He nodded sagely. A mixologist strolled past with a mechanical spoon on a stick. "Darling, let me play," I begged. Whirled it around a couple of times, then tried it on my companion's ear. "Euugh, tickles," he said, and ordered

My elbow slipped off the bar. I would have felt like Audrey Hepburn in Breakfast at Tiffany's, except that Audrey's white trousers would never have

had developed mysterious grey flecks. Ian seemed neither shaken nor stirred. "Let's go to The Foundation. You have to try some cocktails, and they have a fountain." In the basement

of Harvey Nick's. where the bottle shelves are indeed backed by a mir-rored wall of flowing water, I had a Purple Haze and a Foundation

Vodka Punch, and my notes say something like "vod gin blue curac dsh puk snaps lem lim eggwht Imade grenad", so obviously the old professional dignity remained intact. Then, suddenly, the bar was closed. "Aargh, they close early," I moaned, "Uurn," said Ian, "It's twenty-five to twelve".

Fumbling on my front doorstep, I tripped over a food parcel from Asda. Inside was a bottle of the coolest thing ever: County Cream strawberry cream liqueur, a sort of addedvalue Bailey's, Coat on the floor, keys in the goldfish bowl, I poured a tumbler: melted Haagen Dazs with booze. So delicious I had to ring Angelboy to tell him. A sleepy voice answered the phone on the eighth ring. "Darling, did you know that you can only grow Bison Grass in the wild?

A pause. "You're completely smashed," he said. "Go to bed."

YES, THERE WERE

DEAD PEOPLE, SO I USED A LIVING ONE !

COMPLAINTS ABOUT ME USING

#### Tomb of the unknown wordsmith

mmortality - literary immortality, that is, not the banal, fleshly kind - is a tricky customer, capricious, demanding and vague. The only consolotion it offers the writer is the negative one, that he will never know for certain that he hasn't achieved it. My advice is, do it for the money and let posterity take care of itself.

On Tuesday, Radios 3 and 4 co-operated in an odd examination of the vagaries of literary immortality, based on the fact that this day, 3 June 1997, was Enoch Soames Day. Enoch Soames was a third-rate poet of the 1890s in a short story by Max Beerbohm, author of such slim volumes as Fungoids (the name suggests something of the quality of the poems, Soames explains: strange growths, natural and wild, yet exquisite and many-hued and full of poisons). His work goes unnoticed (as does Soames: he is a perfect non-entity), but he clings to the notion that pos-

In the story, he sells his soul to the devil in return for the chance to go forward one century - to last Tuesday afternoon

terity will reward him.



- to visit the British Museum Reading Room and see what posterity has made of him. He expects to find biographies. commentaries, new editions of his work; instead he finds one reference to himself, as a ridiculous character in a laboured satire by Max Beerbohm.

The occasion of his visit was marked by a dramatisation of the story, broadcast on Radio 4 at the very hour when Soames was supposed to be in the Reading Room; and by an almost live feature. The Ghost in the Reading Room, broadcast on Radio

proportionate reaction to a little-known 80-year-old squib. Eric Pringle's dramatisation was no more than efficient - the joke being too firmly based on the page to make the transition very convincingly - and there were some embarrassingly weak ironies and flat moments in David Benedictus and Tom Braun's walk round Beerbohm's London. The feature culminated with the appearance of an actor impersonating Soames in the Reading Room, to a cringe-making display of mock amazement.

So I wouldn't mention it at all, if it weren't that it's the kind of enterprise - self-consciously arty and thoroughly pointless that public broadcasting exists. in part, to attempt; and if it hadn't brought home, under the jocose manner, the peculiar horror that being forgotten must hold when being remembered is your only reason for living. Just think of all the thousands of mute, inglorious Enoch Soameses there must have been; this was a surprisingly haunting ghost.

Journalists are, of course,

On paper, this seemed a dis-not very interested in literary immortality. Generally speaking, a journalist has to reckon that anything he writes is going to be no more than kindling on the bonfire of the vanities - it might make a bit of a spark one second but the next it will have wafted off into thin air. If they make a deal with the devil. it's for them to be allowed to keep their heads down and be swiftly forgotten. (He doesn't demand a soul in return: just that they keep on with the job, since the multiplication of reading-matter does his work for him.)

<u>يون يا يا در منظم منظم منظم و منظم المنظم المن</u> المنظم 
Sometimes the pact breaks down and the journalist does get a place in history: Martin Bell being a recent example. His series on television journalism, The Truth is Our Currency, has just finished its delayed run (R4, Fri). It's been particularly interesting to hear it in the light of recent events at Tatton: and hearing his stubborn aftirmation that journalists can only deal in truth, or they lose the trust of the public, leaves you in no doubt that he was the right man to front an anti-corruption campaign. Tatton's gain is, you

#### Stumped by those commentaries

 hannel 5's commitment to doing things differently found Turnstyle: Live World Cup Football (C5, Sat) in a rowdy sports bar watching Poland v England. It was one of those joints where you can't see the metal for the alloy, all jutting girders and musclehound ramparts: an architectural representation, if you will, of the iron-clad England midfield: for Ince, Batty and Lee read grille, steel and chrome. If the venue wasn't specifically designed to provide the worst possible acoustic for Brough Scott's clipped equestrian voice, then my name's Karel Wojtyla. And my

same ironmonger. The choice of location had a kind of skewed logic. BSKYB picks up most of its audience for football from the pub. so why not be in the pub before Channel 5 you could fit most of its audience in there with the production team, and still have room for a hen party. But this was the channel's first big night since its big first night, and for once they were broadcasting in the certain knowledge that somebody out there was watching. The importance of making an impression was not lost on ately afterwards, were wearing them. Hence the line-up of exactly the same kit. As were out before the next ball is rain. They got that wrong too.

balcony was wrought at the



pundits. Where the BBC gives you Alan Hansen, Channel 5 comes up with Jo Guest. Plus a lot of people called Diamond. In other words, they d invited the hen party along after all.

Before the game, the referee had ordered England to change their strip, on the grounds that it clashed with the audience gets there? Of Poland's. From this end, courable transmitter, it looked as if they swapped red for a green and pink design with a juddering wave motif, the internationally recognised colours of the sick parrot. By an extraordinary coincidence, the England rugby team playing Argentina half a planet away, in a match broadcast immedi-

were Poland. Barred from the party and

sent along to the match itself was the commentator Jonathan Pearce. He was hired from Capital Gold for his ability to make watching paint dry sound exciting. This effect is achieved via the simple technique of turning the volume up so high that said paint is stripped even as it dries. He is essentially a local radio ham, which is why his commentary was both a cesspit of nationalism and a statistical goldmine. Radio commentators rely on words to fill the airtime, and unlike their counterparts in television, are not used to letting the football do the work. Thus Pearce had made it his task to ensure that by the final whistle even Jo

four of Legia Warsaw. At a distant extremity in the Cricket - First Test: England v Australia (BBC1 / 2, Thursday). This year's Wisden has criticised the BBC for its hopelessly staid Test coverage - lo and behold, the Corporation has discovered razzmatazz. In between occasional balls, an inset on your screen will randomly deliver an interview with a cricketer, then rudely fade it with snazzy graphics, predicting

Guest could name the back

Argentina. As, back in Poland, bowled. Then, at the end of each session, someone on the boundary rope with a microphone will nab a player and squeeze him dry of cliches. And in the middle of the ten interval, rather than go in for anything as piffling as match analysis after perhaps the most exciting first two sessions in Ashes history, they will give you 10 minutes of a 12-year-old innings from David Gower.

For those who wonder what the gentleman / players divide: must have been like 40 years: ago, they need look no further than the varieties of approach by BSkyB and the BBC. At the resumption of the ancient sporting rivalry, Sky would have been on the air since breakfast time, champing at the bil. slavering at the prospect of a red-blooded engagement. The BBC drifted in with just 10 minutes to go till start of play - the scheduling equivalent of a lazy wat outs And once on air, the only hint of loin-girded bias germane to most cricket broadcasts was confined to Geoffrey Boycott's comments on fellow tyke Darren Gough, who can clearly expect a proposal of marriage some time during the luncheon interval today. On the plus side, there was a weather report

Whatever happened to

#### The red telephone box?

Ten years ago this month, the newly-privatised British Telecom pushed ahead with what for many will always be the most dramatic innovation of the digital revolution. It began to demolish its 80,000strong fleet of red telephone boxes. Heavy doors and the red box's widely recognised role as an alternative public lavatory meant that the atmosphere inside had not always been bracing. Disabled access was non-existent, and thieves were robbing the boxes of £30 million a year. In any case, the new chairman of BT, Sir lain Vallance, wanted a new image for his company.

The cull has been relentless ever since. British Telecom has torn out all but 15,000 of Giles Gilbert Scott's classic models. Scott's K2 design, which won the original Post Office commission in 1924, and the smaller, more numerous K6 refinement of 1935. have been replaced by a less popular range of easy-to-clean, difficult-to-rob plastic booths. But BT, which recently persuaded New World Payphones not to establish their own red boxes, has consistently refused to quench the nostalgic thirst of a British public addicted to programmes like Hamish Macbeth and Ballykissangel

Public opinion has never been reconciled with the old red box's successors. Open-air telephone booths were windy and noisy. Mercury's blue and silver phone booths also failed to satisfy. Last year, BT finally answered calls for something more familiar, unveiling a new stainless steel-based payphone with a red-topped roof and a "softer, more rounded" shape.

But even this tribute to the past failed to impress Scott devotee Lord St John of Fawsley, who described it as "illiterate" and "visually

AA Roadwatch

London, All Leytonstone, Lane dosures at A12 roundabout until August

London, A306 Hammersmith Bridge

Bristol, M5 J18-19. Controllow on

Avonmouth Bridge until August 1998.

Dorset, A348 Tricketts Cross, Round-

about construction until January (979)

Swansea, A483 Fabian Way. Lanc do-

Majorworks at Meiruntil March 1998. West Midlands, M6 J6 - slip road from

Salford Circus to M6 North closed

Hereford and Worcester, Lands-

downe Crescent closed due to long-

term marchworks tentil November 1986 Greater Manchester, Blackley, Major

West Yorks, MI J-7, Major long-term madworks until September 15th. Scotland, Edinburgh, M9 Newbridge Spor (M8 J2). Major roadworks until

roadworks until May 31st.

until January 1998.

aures both ways until July 8th. Staffordshire, ASO Stoke On Trent.

Closed until January 1998. Surrey, M25 J8-10, Lane closure

both ways until further notice.

Westminster City Council has reintroduced the red box to conservation areas, and 2000 originals. mostly in rural areas, were listed by English Heritage in 1988. But otherwise. Scott's creations have found more useful employment as bathroom showers. As for that box in Hamish Macbeth's village of Loch Dubh: in real life, it's privately owned. But never mind - with several telephone companies developing miniature mobile "tele-headsets" that transmit sounds through the cheekbone, we may soon be wondering what all the fuss was about.

Conal Walsh

# WEATHER

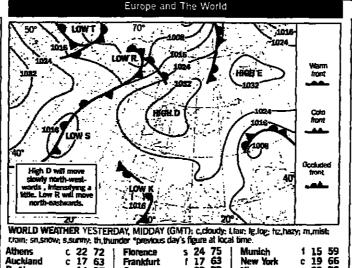
The British Isles General Situation and Outlook:

Eastern coastal counties of both Scotland and England will start grey with some banks of low cloud. It should brighten up with plenty of warm sunshine by this afternoon, although right on the coast there will be a cool seabreeze and some troublesome sea mist. Away from these eastern counties, England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales will have another hot and sunny day, although seabreezes will temper the heat on many coasts. and there will be quite a stiff easterly wind

along the English Channel. Tomorrow, England and Wales will be dry with plenty of sunshine, but it will be cooler than recently with a blustery wind and a bit more in the way of cloud in the south and east. Scotland and Northern Ireland will have decent amounts of warm sunshine once any mist and low cloud has cleared away. Early next week the dry weather will continue with the sunniest and warmest weather in the west.

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TH MY TH MA SO: Poor Poor Poor Poor Mode 10.02 6.6 22.23 6.4 Moderate Moderate 9:17pm to 4:59am .9:18cm to 4:58am Good 7.22 8.4 20.06 8.2 S England Wales .9:20om to 4:50am 9:19pm to 4:51am Poor Poor 3.0011.3 15.35 11.2 9:27pm to 4:46am to 4:47am C England N England 2.28 7.5 14.36 7.8 9:34pm to 4:34am 8.29 3.1 21.07 3.1 4:40am 7.57 3.8 20.50 3.7



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Out and about with AA Road-watch col 0336 401 to the latest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association, Calls charged at 39p per min (cheep rate) 49p per min (all other times) inc VAT. Sun rises 4:50am Sun sets 9:07pm Moon rises 2:34am Moon sets 3:15pm

further notice.

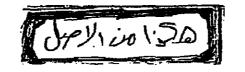
CYGNUS The constellation Lyra lies between Cygnus and Hercules, high

The Sky at Night

in the sky over the eastern horizon by the time it is dark enough

The fifth brightest star in the sky, white-hot Vega, adorns in the ancient constellation Lyra. Tradition has it that the god Jupiter placed in the sky the lyre of the legendary musician Orpheus. who had met a gory end, torn limb from limb by women whose advances he scorned! For amateur astronomers, this star-studded instrument still has entertainment value. A small telescope resolves Beta Lyrae as a double. But the brighter object is an eclipsing binary on a 13-day cycle. As this pair waltz around each other in a close embrace, there's dimming of as much as a magnitude down from a peak of mag. 3.3. Delta and Epsilon are also easy to see as double stars in binoculars. Delta is an accidental alignment of two unrelated stars, while Epsilon is in reality a rare example of a free quasi-spirition scope reveals both "stars" as double again.

Jacqueline Mitton ity a rare example of a true quadruple star: a high-powered tele-



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#### Gerard Gilbert recommends Stone, Scissors, Paper Sat 9.35pm BBC2

ow we know where Tony Blair got the idea of walking to Downing Street on that magnificent Friday morning side now, perhaps, and Keith Allen makes an unlikely Peter last month Not from Botton Market Friday morning side now, perhaps, and Keith Allen makes an unlikely Peter last month Not from Botton Market Peter last makes an unlikely Peter last month Not from Botton Market Mark last month. Not from Peter Mandelson; not from Cherie - but from Harry Perkins.

Harry who? Winch your minds back to 1988, to the dark old days of Tory hegemony, to A Very British Coup (Sat C4)

- Alan Plater's adaptation of Chris Mullin's conspiracy thriller. Harry Perkins, played by the late Ray McAnally, was the former Sheffield steel-worker who became Prime Minister on a radical Old Labour platform. He was a Tony Benn with the common touch; a comforting Labour fantasy for the wildnerness years. I wonder if Blair enjoyed the series.

This is an inspired piece of scheduling from Channel 4. It's interesting to compare the events of the past six weeks with Plater and Mullin's vision of what would happen if Labour

Mandelson. Perkins, by the way, entertains the US Secretary of State to a Sheffield Wednesday football match instead of Le Pont de la Tour. Clinton got off lightly.

From Old Labour to a fine new drama - Stone, Scissors, Paper (Sat BBC2), a love story written by Richard Cameron which has won the BBC's Dennis Potter Film of the Year Award. Juliet Stevenson - a superb actress whom one nevertheless often verges on finding rather annoying (perhaps it's just all those quiveringly drippy characters she plays) - is Jean, a battered wife taking refuge in clearing out her dead mother's house. Ken Stott (Takin' Over the Asylum) is Redfern, a soulful stonemason whose marriage has solidified into one long round of menial chores, meal-times and pottering

about in his shed. Jean and Redfern discover in each other a a couple is together, then maybe that says something. Then kindred spirit, but in the small community in which they live, the shrapnel from this affair flies off in all sorts of dangerous directions. The writing is spare and truthful, and if you want to see how far Coronation Street has strayed into the realms of fantasy, compare and contrast with the current Sally-Kevin-Natalie ménage-à-trois.

On the subject of spousage, Dale Winton, who recently disappeared from National Lottery Live (which, to be honest, wasn't well suited to his talents), now pops up to front The Other Half (Sat BBC1). Nestling into the Generation Game/ Pets Win Prizes niche, contestants have to use their powers of deduction to guess their opponents' partners. No preview tapes exist, but the thought occurs that this might make a good gauge of one's relationship. I mean, if nobody can find a reason wby

again, we are talking Light Entertainment.

When it comes to permanent rifts, you can't beat Antarctica. Apparently, an area of ice 200m deep and the size of the United Kingdom has recently melted into the sea. The cutting edge, quite literally, of global warming, the South Pole is turning into a potential destination for Club Med. If you don't believe me, check out Antarctica on the Edge (Sun C4)

Tectonic shifts elsewhere, as Hong Kong prepares in change masters. Riding the Tiger (Sat C4) introduces us to various players – civil rights activist, pro-Beijing politician newspaper magnate – and Mrs Leung, a small shopkeeness It's the powerless Mrs Leung who is most fatalistic - and fine perhaps, the authentic voice of old China. Will the vibrant new voice of Hong Kong change all that?

#### BBC₁

7.00 Children's BBC: Harry and the Hendersons. 7.25 News, Weather. 7.30 Felix the Cat. 7.45 Babar. 8.10 Albert the 5th Musketaer. 8,35

The Flintstones. 9.00 Phantom 2040. 9.20 The Incredible Hulk. 2040. 9.20 The increasing mark. 9.45 Grange Hill. 10.10 Sweet Valley High. 10.35 The O Zone. 10.42 Weather (673571). 10.45 Grandstand (S) (6734842).10.50

Cricket - First Test: England v Australia. Live coverage of the third day's play in the First Comhill Insurance Test Match from Edgbaston (78445026). 1.05
News (45750533). 1.10 Golf: the early stages and semi-finals of the Amateur Championship from Sandwich (23489674). 1.35 Cricket (64672552). 3.40 Golf (5472362). 4.00.21 (5472262). 4.00 Cricket (9442736). 4.50 News Round-Up (6441113).

5.20 News, Weather (7) (7181736). 5.30 Local News, Weather (413129). 5.35 Cartoon (118281).

5.45 Dad's Army. These lovely old repeats continue as Mainwaring lets Frazer take over command in a bid to end his grumbling (R)(T) (729649). 6.20 The New Adventures of Superman (S)(T) (790262).

7.05 The Other Half. See Preview, above (S) (109281). 7.45 The National Lottery Live. Terry

Wogan makes the introductions, and popsters AZ Yet get invaluable exposure (S)(T) (954991). 8.05 Jonathan Creek. Another mystery for Alan Davies and Caroline Quentin. When a renowned doctor and cancer

researcher is discovered dead inside a locked room, horribly impaled on a vicious 12th-century samurai blade, the authorities are understandably baffled (738151). 9.05 Casualty. The staff at Holby struggle to save Jude's life as the police by to find her attacker in another of these selected repeats (R)(S) (558484). 9.55 News and Sport, Weather. (7)

10.15 Boomerang (Reginald Hudlin 1992 US). A boomerang that did not return Eddie Murphy's career to its mid-1980s zenith, this out-of-kilter sex comedy miscasts Murphy as a wormanising advertising executive who gets his come-uppance when executive Robin Givens (the former Mrs Mike Tyson) starts using him as a sex object. Despite the girl-power premise, this is often crudely sexist stuff. Lively cameos, though, from Grace Jones and Eartha Kitt

12.05 Top of the Pops (S)(7) (8093595). 1978 US). Complicated but illfocused thriller set in 1945 Germany, imagining that General Patton was murdered as part of a massive gold bullion heist. Sophia Loren, George Kennedy, John Cassavetes and Max Von Sydow lead the all-star cast (899408). 2.25 Weather (2242576). To 2.30am.

#### BBC2

6.20 Open University: Scenes from Dr Faustus by Christopher Marlowe Part Two (3532674), 6.45 Man-Made Macromolecules (7439533). 7.10 The Politics of Equal Opportunity (9165026), 8.00 Open Saturday

10.30 MenZone. Presented by Quentin Willson (S) (6817129).

10.35 Top Gear. Jeremy Clarkson checks out new sports car models, while Quentin Willson looks at secondhand BMWs in an effort to find the best value from the

old 3 series (R)(S)(T) (5938533).

11.20 My Brilliant Career. Gerald Ratner speaks about his career in the jewellery business (R)(S)(T) (8104571).

11.55 Hancock's Half Hour. Sid falls in love with a clippie on the 93 bus route (R)

12.30 Film 97 with Barry Norman. Con Air, The Fifth Element and Crash are re-Bazza'd (R)(S)(T) (88533). Tennis. Live coverage from the Roland Garros stadium of the French Open Championship Women's Final between

Champtonship women's Final between Martina Hingis and the Croatian ninth seed, Eva Majoli (773129).

4.00 Alias Smith and Jones (R) (9440378).

4.50 Cricket – First Test: England v Australia. Live coverage (S) (61245571).

6.30 Correspondent. In the second of two special editions to mark the handover of the Correspondent o

Hong Kong to the Chinese, Kate Adie reports from a Taiwanese frigate on the island's determination to resist China's attempts at reunification, Julian Pettife returns to Canton in southern China to examine the changes since his first visit 27 years ago; Julie Flint meets Uigher separatists from Kazakhstan, and Matt Frei investigates a Macaoan casino king (S)(77 (589378).

(S)(T) (589378).
7.15 News and Sport, Weather (254858).
7.25 The Railway, Second of two films looking at the planning of a high-speed rail link between London and the Channel Tunnel. Enter the private sector (S) (848668).
8.15 Prohibition: 13 Years That Changed America. Second pagramme in this

America. Second programme in this handsome series about the prohibition of alcohol in 1920 and 1930s America bombards the myth that Eliot Ness was untouchable – and looks at how the crime wave headed by Al Capone gradually convinced Americans that prohibition had failed (S)(7) (609216).

9.05 Have I Got News for You. Germaine Greer and Jim Davidson are the

Greer and Jim Davidson are the repeated last guests of the present series (S)(T) (566571).

9.35 Stone, Scissors, Paper. See Preview, above (S)(T) (1744465).

11.00 Later with Jools Holland. With Primal Scream, Suzanne Vega, Placebo, Del Amitri, and a rare performance from Boston's Taj Mahal (S) (656281).

12.05 Cricket – First Test: England v Australia. Highlights of the third day's play at Edgbaston (S) (8159458).

12.45 Struck by Lightning (Jerzy Domaradzki 1990 Aus). Lively.

Domaradzki 1990 Aus). Lively, unsentimental comedy drama starring Brian Vriends as a young physical education teacher who takes a job in a workshop for adults with Down's syndrome. Confronting a restrictive system, he starts a crusade to improve their lives (170885).

#### ITV/Carlton

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News. 6.10 Professor
Bubble, 6.30 Barney and Friends.
6.50 Our House. 7.10 The Wuzzles.
7.40 Disney's Wake Up in the Wild
Room. 8.55 Power Rangers Zeo.
9.25 Mashed (S) (83589194).
11.30 The Chart Show (S) (17113).
12.30 Mad Science. Fred Talbot investigates
stop-motion animation (88587).
1.00 News, Weather (T) (45859858).
1.05 London Weekend Today (45858129).
1.10 Carbon Time (45775842).
1.15 SeaQuest DSV (S)(T) (3236649).
2.10 Eith The Plank (Eric Sykes 1967 UK).
Eric Sykes and Tommy Cooper star in

Eric Syles and Tommy Cooper star in this slapstick favourite expanded from a wordless TV short (3946200). 3.00 TIM The BRAT Patrol (Mollie Miller 1986 US). Disrey children's adventure with Sean Astin (47669129).
4.50 News, Sport, Weather (7) (2689939).
5.05 London Weekend Tonight (3743113).
5.20 The Sylvester and Tweety Mysteries (S)(7) (8909587).

5.35 Watching. An episode of the romantic sitcom starring Emma Wray (315007).

#### Channel 4

6.40 Miraculous Mellops (R) (7538858). 7.05 Sonic the Hedgehog (R)(S) (2588113). 7.35 Creepy Crawlers (S)(T) (6183216). 8.00 Transworld Sport (R) (22858).

9.00 Iransword Sport (r) (22638).
9.00 Morning Line. A look ahead to the day's racing (S) (54736).
10.00 Gazzetta Football Italia (39842).
11.00 NBA Finals (S) (26378).
12.00 IIIII The Tall Target (Arithony Mann 1951 US). Taut and terrific, this is

costume drama played as film noir, with Dick Powell as the Pinkerton detective assigned to protect President Abe Lincoln from assassination as he travels

from Baltimore to Washington to be inaugurated (T) (8283129).

1.25 Channel 4 Racing: The Derby from Epsorn. Brough Scott introduces live coverage of the 218th Derby from Epsom. Including 2.00 Vodac "Dash" Stakes. 2.30 Vodafone Diomed Stakes. 3.00 London Car Telephones Handicap Stakes. 3.45 Vodafone Derby Stakes. 4.30 Talkland Stakes (24785823).



9.35pm BBC2 'Stone, Scissors, Paper Love story: Juliet Stevenson and Ken Stott become soulmates

6.05 New Baywatch (S)(T) (806262).
7.00 You've Been Framed! (R)(S)(T) (7484).
7.30 Stars in Their Eyes. The live final, featuring impersonations of Jarvis Cocker, Louis Armstrong, Luiu, Jon Bon Jovi, Olivia Newton John, REM's Michael Stipe and more (S) (82674).
9.00 An Evening with Liv Savage. The 9.00 An Evening with Lily Savage. The scouse drag queen entertains a celebrity audience (R)(S)(T) (1533).

10.00 News, Weather, Lottery Result (7) (394276). 10.15 Stars in Their Eyes Live Final - Result

(S)(T) (936736). 10.35 The International Match – Tournoi de France: France v England. Bob Wilson introduces highlights of France v England from Montpellier (494533). 11.35 The Natural (Barry Levinson

1984 US). Disappointing attempt to make a mystical epic about baseball suffering from too much soft focus, slow Recitord is the slugger going for glory, as Glenn Close and evil Kim Basinger contend for his soul (S) (53196484). 2.00 Box Office America (19175).

2.30 Club Nation (R)(S)(T) (6453021), 3.30 Dating the Enemy (R)(S) (8144595), 4.20 Night Shift (R)(S) (96263427), 4.35 ITV Sports Classics (81126408). 5.00 Cybernet (88868). To 5.30am.

Meakin, Terry Molloy, John

Webb and David Holt. (R) 4.00 News: What It..? Professor

Christopher Andrew discovers

how differently things might

have filmed out if the baby who

grew up to be Queen Victoria

had been bom male.

5.40 You Probably Think This

4.30 Science Now. 5.00 File on 4.

5.05 Brookside Omnibus (S)(T) (4151587). 6.35 Channel 4 Racing. The highlights from this afternoon's Derby (S)(T) (583007).
7.00 Riding the Tiger. See Preview, above (T) <u>(3991).</u>

8.00 FIES Popeye (Robert Altman 1980 US). Not as bad as they say - Altman's cluttered and mostly unfunny recreation of the spinach-guzzling sailor (Robin Williams) has its moments. And if ever a piece of casting did itself, it was Shelley Duvall as Olive Oyl (29545026).

9.50 Homicide: Life on the Street (7) (559649).

10.45 A Very British Coup. See Preview, above (R)(T) (684823). 12.45 Roadkill (Bruce McDonald 1989 Can). The surreal story of an odyssey through Northern Ontario in search of a

missing rock band (323040).

2.20 The New Twilight Zone. A writer who returns to his childhood home seeking inspiration and finds himself back as a boy again *(*7297798).

2.45 Jack and Jeremy's Real Lives (81798). 3.15 Get Up, Stand Up (R)(S)(T) (71311). 3.45 Porkpie (R)(S)(T) (70682).

4.15 Film Night (R) (7879311). 4.55 Let the Blood Run Free (R) (5886311). 5.40 NBA Finals (S) (8323953). To 6.35am.

#### **Channel 5**

6.00 Dappledown Farm (4290002). 6.30 Attractions. Tim Vincent and some ideas for the weekend (R) (1691939). 7.00 5 News Early (S) (3664216). 7.30 Havakazoo: Wimzie's House

8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (8789823). 8.30 Land of the Lost. A Channel 5 planning meeting? (8788194).

meeting? (8788194).

9.00 Beverly Hills, 90210 (S) (7420552).

9.55 Beverly Hills, 90210 (S) (8592026).

10.50 Mag Upfront: Anything's Possible.
Young actors re-enact childhood traumas suffered by celebrities. Star of 2point4 Children, Gary Olsen is this week's subject (80609804).

11.00 Turnstyle. Dominik Diamond and Gail

McKenna look ahead to the England rugby union team's second Test match against Argentina, the first cricket Test between England and Australia and the French Open tennis finals (78432587).

12.50 5 News. (S)(7) (26211026).

1.00 The Mag. Josie D'Arby introduces the afternoon entertainment slot for young people (S) (5210656). 2.00 USA High. Teenage sitcom about the students of an American school in Paris (S) (19900571).

2.20 The Mag (Continued) (S) (2527823). 3.15 Surset Beach Omnibus (21448026). 6.00 5 News and Sport (S)(T) (4359113). 6.05 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys (S) (2057804).

6.55 Night Fever. Karaoke quiz show features Catalina Guirado, Julia Bradbury, Linda Lusardi, Philippa Forrester, Jonathon Morris and John Altman, among others (S) (4375910). 7.50 5 News and Sport (S)(7) (7676668). 8.10 Turnstyle: International Rugby Argentina v England. Coverage of England's second Test against

Argentina from Buenos Aires, the final game of their six-match tour. With commentary by Chris Rea and expert analysis by England international Damian Hopley (S) (10386533). 10.00 Engl Kickboxer (Mark DiSalle and David Worth 1989 US). Jean-Claude

Van Damme mangles the English language in a tedious flick which still somehow managed to rescue his career from the video shelf (8086397). 11.50 Poltergeist: the Legacy (S) (2871465).
1.25 IIIM Sweet William (Claude Whatham
1980 UK). Beryl Bainbridge adapted
her own novel for this gentle.

meandering drama starring Sam Waterston as the unfaithful lover of London girl Jenny Agutter. It's hard to care about either protagonist, however. Arthur Lowe appears in a cameo, but why bother when you can get undiluted Dad's Army over on BBC1? (5810595).

3.05 Film Ladies Who Do (CM Penningtoninsider trading as cleaner Peggy Mount uses stock market information she finds at work to make money. Robert Morley, Ron Moody and Dandy Nichols are also involved (30849408)

4.30 The Road (21541088). 4.40 Prisoner Cell Block H (3568972). 5.30 Whittle (R)(S)(T) (7440525). To

#### ITV/Regions

AkGLIA
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (88587). 1.05 Anglia News and Weather (45858129). 1.10 Airwolf (3237378). 2.05 Film: Crystalstone (782674). 3.50 .seaQuest DSV: (8765649). 5.05 Anglia News, Sport and Weather (3743113). 12.05 Film: Texasville (40974137); 2.25 Film: Rock Hudson (488798). 4.05 Coach (81957514). 4.30 - 5.30am Shift (75576).

ENTRAL
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (88587). 1.05 Central News and Weather (45858129). 1.10 Airwolf (6073858). 2.10 FTV Sport Classics (83865216). 2.20 FWn: Nusse on Wheels* (122823). 3.55 seaCuest DSV (8773668). 5.05 Central News and Weather (7277587). 5.10. World of Wonder (8816823). 3.55 Jobfinder (7036069). 5.20 - 5.30am Asian Eye (4525137).

HIY WALES
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (88587). 1.05 HTV News (45858129). 1.10 Roadrunner (23391465). 1.40 A World of Wonder (31406484). 2.05 sea@uest.DSV (600026): 3.55 Airwolf (8773668). 5.05 HTV Wates News and Sports Results (8819910). 5.15 Dinosaurs (7576113). 12.05 Film: Teaswille (40974137). 2.25 Film: Rock Hudson (488798). 4.05 Coach (81957514). 4.30: 5.30au Shift (75761).

As HTV Wales except: 1.10pm The Juice! Volume AS INV Water Except Light The autoe volume. One – Issue Three (2591007). 1.45 seaQuest DSV (49126113). 3.20 Airwolf (4967991). 4.15 The List (1314571). 5.05 - 5.15pm HTV West News, Sports Results and Weather (8819910).

As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Video; (88587). 1.05 Meridian News and Weather (45858129). 1.10 The Road Show (23391465). 1.40 Film: The Treasure of Matecumbe (41552945). 3.50 seeQuest DSV (8765649). 5.05 Meridian News and Weather (3743113). 12.05 Film: Texasville (40974137). 225 Film: Rock Hudson (488798). 4.05 Coach (81957514). 4.30 - 5.30am Shift (75576).

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (88587). 1.05 Westcountry News (45858129). 1.10 Film: Are You Being Served? (95629649). 3.00 Hollywood's Greatest. Stunts (4987753 3.55 seaCuest DSV (8773668). 5.05 Westcountry News (3743113). 12.05 Film: Texasville (40974137). 2.25 Film: Rock Hudson (488798). 4.05 Coach (81957514). 4.30 - 5.30am Shift (75576).

As London except: 12.30pm Movies, Games and Videos (88587). 1.05 Calendar News and Weathviceos (6658/129). 1.10 Ainvolt (3237378). 2.05 Car-toon (83868303). 2.15 Film: The Trial of the Incredible Hulk (950533). 3.55 seaQuest DSV (8773668). 5.05 Catendar News and Weather (7277587). 5.10 Scoreline (8816823). 12.05 Teleshop Home Shopping Advertising Magazine (8088663). 12.35 Film: The Natural (4246750). 2.50 in Bed with Medinner (2718885). 3.15 Coach (44706137). 3.40 Funny Business (45943359); 4.05 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (66656576). 4.35 - 5.30am Murder, She Wrote (6382798).

CHAMMEL 3 MORTH EAST As Yorkshire except: 1.05pm North East News (45858129). 5.05 North East News (7277587). 5.10 - 5.20pm Cartoon Time (8816823).

As C4 except: 10.00am Home Improvement (87945), 10.30 The Monkees (62007), 12.00 Film: Challenge to Lassie (8283129), 5.05 Briok-side (5819991), 6.30 Springhiji (378), 7.00 Newyddion a Chwaraeon (894656), 7.15 Esteddiol yr Urdd Islwyn 97: Goreuon yr Wyl (1596991), 8.20 Dilyn Ddoe: Suzanne a'r Anglesey Strangers (743587), 8.50 Channel 4 Racing (544823), 9.20 Hearts and Minds (447804), 10.20 Film: Purple Rose of Cairo (5822194), 11.50 Homicide, Life on the Street (632026), 4.55 - 5.20am Let the Blood Run Free (81137514).

#### Radio

6.00am Dave Pearce 9.30 Mark Goodier 12.30 Lisa l'Anson 3.30 Trevor Nelson 6.30 Danny Rampling 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 Radio 1 Reggae Dancehall Nite 2.00 Essential Mix: Tasha Killer Pussies 4.00-6.00am Annie Radio 2

(\$3-90.7\text{\text{3}}\text{\text{1}}\text{\text{Fig.}} 6.00am Mo Dutta 8.05 Brian Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's Saturday Show 1.00 Carrott's

Cornedy Choice 1.30 The Ne Huddlines 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Alan Freeman 5.30 Steve Winwood in Concert 6.30 The Sum-mer of Love 7.30 Anything Goes 10.00 Hay-on-Wye at Ten 11.00 Bob Harns 1.00 Sue McGarry 4.00-7.00am Mo Dutta Radio 3

(90.292.4ABb) (90) 5.55am Weather; News Her
 7.00 Record Review. 9.00 Building a Library. 10.15 Record Release. 11.15 Reissues. 12.00 Private Passions, With Michael Grade.

1.00 Vintage Years. See Choice, above. 3.00 Fantasy Pieces. 3.20 Youth Orchestras of the World. Claudio Abbado conducts the Gustav Mahter Youtil Orchestra in a concert of Austro-German classics. Framing overture to Eemont and Wag-

ner's to Die Merstersinger von Numberg. 5.00 Jazz Record Requests. 5.45 Music Matters. 6.30 Rinaldo. Handel's opera of 1711 was the first Italian opera

W <u>(S</u>.

Tel We

#### Choice



I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue (12.25pm R4) returns. edged with black after Willie Rushton's death; Paul Merton (left) takes his seat, if not his place. Vintage Years (1pm R3) for the next six weeks is devoted to Vladimir Ashkenazy's twin careers as pianist and conductor.

written for the London stage Given as part of last year's Beaume Music Festival, Sara Mingardo, soprano (Rinaldo). Maria Constanza Nocentini, soprano (Armida), Sandrine Piau, soprano (Almirena). (Avgante), Les Talens Lyriques/Christophe Rousset 9.30 Fundamentals. 10.00 Debut, Suzanne Stanzelert (violin), Julian Jacobson

(piano). Corigliano: Violin Sonata. Walton: Canzonetta; Scherzetto. 10.30 Cheltenham Jazz Festival In the first of two concerts from the festival, Geoffrey Smith introduces a double bill of two illustrious American saxoohor ists recorded in the Everyman Theatre, Johnny Griffin was accompanied by a British
rhythm section comprising John Taylor (piano), Dave Green (bass) and Steve Arguelles (drums), Jackie McLean's rhythm section was all-Ameri can: pianist Cedar Walton. bassist David Williams and drummer Victor Lewis. 1.00-7.00am Through the Night.

Radio 4

9.00 News.

minster. 11.30 EuroFile. 2,30 Saturday Playhouse: The Stories of Muncaster Cathedral, By Robert Westall, Steeplejack Joe Clarke is hired to do some work on the spire of Muncaste Cathedral, but in the tower a malevolent gargoyle wields its evil power over the fate of Joe and his family. With Peter

(24445)() (전 155년 1개) **6.00am** News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Today. 8.58 Weather.

9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breakaway. 10.00 John Walters: Stuck In.

10.30 Double Vision. 11.00 News; The Week in West 11.30 Eurome. 12.00 Money Box. 12.25 I'm Sorry I Haven't a Clue. See Choice, above. 12.55 Weather. 1,10 Any Questions? 1,55 Shipping Forecast. 2,00 News; Any Answers?

#### Song is about You. 5.50 Shipping Forecast. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Week Ending. 6.50 Offspring. 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. Laura

Cumming investigates the rapidly changing world of book 7.50 On These Days.

8.50 Saturday Night Theatre:
Patricia's Progress. The final part of Tony Mulholland's drama. With Lucy Treager and Michael Lumsden, (R)

9.35 Classics with Kay. 9.50 Ten to Ten. 10.00 News. 10.15 Late Night Theatre: My Bed in Darkness. By Jonathan Myerson. London's glatter tamishes rapidly for those who are young poor and sleeping rough. But sometimes life on the street is

> 11.15 Who Goes Home. (R) 11.30 Looking Forward to the Past. (R) 12.00 News. 12.30 Late Story: Price of Fame. By Michael Carson, read by Stephen Thome. 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service.

5.50 Inshore Forecast. 5.51 Bells on Sunday. 5.55-6.00am Shipping Forecast

better than any other option.

With James Thomas. (R)

#### Radio 4 LW (92.1-94 6분박 FM, 198M: 1세) 11.00am-1.00pm Test Match

Special. 1.10-6.30pm Test Match Special. Radio 5

1693, 909kHz MM) 6.00am Dirty Tackle 6.30 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Week-end 11.00 Top Gear 11.30 The Game's Up 12.00 Interesting... Very Interesting! 1.00 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-O-Six 7.25 International Football Night 9.30 Dallyn UK 10.00 Brief Lives 10.30 Word

Un 11.00 News Extra 12.00 After

Hours 2.00 Up All Night 5.00-6.00am Morning Reports Classic FM

(100-101 9**M**Hz FM) 6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Count-down 12.00 Masters of Their Art 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 Margaret Howard 6.00 Gardening Forum 7.00 Opera Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 The Classic Quiz 12.00 Sally Peterson 2.00 Concert 4.00-6.00am Sally Peterson

Virgin Radio

(1215, 1197-1260sh MW 105.88Hb RM)
6.00am Lynn Parsons 10.00 Russ
'n' Jono's Greatest Hits 3,00 The Album Chart 6.00 Richard Porter 10.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce

World Service

(1984) UM 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter from America 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 On Your Behalf 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Music Review 4.00 World News 4.05 World Business Review 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 From Our Own Correspondent 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30-6.00am

#### Satellite/cable

7.00am My Little Pony (56587). 7.30 Delfy and His Friends (62194), 8.00 Press Your Luck (37656). 8.30 Love Connection (87197). 9.00 Quantum Leap (87197). 9.00 Quantum Leap (192910). 10.00 Kung Fu (68378). 11.00 Legends of the Hidden City (31129). 11.30 Sea Rescue (32858). 12.00 Wrestling (47200). 1.00 Wrestling (23620). 2.00 Star Trek (20620). 3.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (36674). 4.00 Star Trek: Dear Seat Miss (4093). Trek: Deep Space Nine (42281). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (6533). 6.00 Xena: Warnior Princess 0.00 Agna; warnor Princess
 (43-484). 7.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (86113). 8.00
 Coppers (6910). 8.30 Cops I
 (48-451). 9.00 Cops II (48-455).
 9.30 LAPD (28129). 10.00 Law and Order (85484). 11.00 LA Law (69007), 12,00 The Movie Show (19232). 12.30 (APD (97243). 1.00 Dream On (60359). 1.30 Sat-

\$872 7.00pm Superboy (4041755). 7.30 Superboy (8548755), 8.00 Hercules: The Legendary Journeys (6218649), 9.00 Pacific Drive (6221113), 10.00 Tates from the Crypt (9220552), 10.30 Tales from the Crypt (9239200), 11.00 Duck-man (94305201, 11.30 Temperature man (9439620), 11.30 Duckman (5252991). 12.00-6.00am Hit Mix Long Play (2705682).

urday Night, Sunday Morning (76408). 2.00-6.00am Hit Mix

Long Play (7639595).

MOYIE CHANNEL (7686755). 7.40 Dogtanian in: One for All and All for One (4084007). 9.00 Ghost Ship* (4164113), 10.15 Cambra Costa Rica (96758552). 12.00 The See Chase (32465). 2.00 Stargate (74378). 4.00 The Amazing Captain Nemo (9007). 6.00 As Good

(62587). 10.00 Casino (87565587), 12.55 Dazed and Confused (790663), 2.40 Judicial Consent (922717). 4.20-6.00am As Good as Dead (386576).

SKY MOVIES 6.00am The Muppets Take Manhattan (86468692). 7.45 Mass Appeal (62344755), 9.30 It Could Happen To You (10328200). 11.15 First Knight (67934668). 1.30 Howard: A New Breed of Hero (75614674). 3.15 The Muppets Take Manhattan (53285200), 5.00 It Could Happen To You (55086842), 6.45 First Knight (77440945), 9.00 Street Fighter (63216). 11.00 Virtual Desire (517255). 12.40 Cleopatra Jones (971601). 2.15 Cleopatra Jones and the Casino of Gold (348232). 3.55-6.00am Forbidden Beauty (12491750).

SKY MOVIES GOLD 6.00pm Big (9010991), 8.00 Catch 22 (9022736), 10.00 Day of the Locust (3608113), 12.30 Rumble Fish (4251779), 2.05 The Fortune (52786682). 3.35-6.00am Guns at Batasi* (91809999). SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am TT Races (25939), 8.00 Extreme Sport (42002), 8.30 Racing (92543), 9.00 Super League (84842). 11.00 End Zone (19026). 12.00 Sports Saturday (67129). 2.00 The Lions on Tour: Northern Transvaal v British Lions (537129), 4.30 Watersports (99194), 5.30 Golf (80910), 6.30 Survival of the Fittest (6620), 7.00 Football: France v England (587804), 10.00 Football: Georgia v Moldova (41200). 11.30 Futbol Mundial (70649), 12.00 Football: France v England (73750). 1.00-4.00am ice Hockey - Stanley Cup (8414514).

SKY SPORTS 2 7.00am World Sports (8091129). 7.30 Sports Centre (8907736). 8.00 Soccer AM (5004755). 11.00

5.00 End Zone (1580939), 6.00 Inside the PGA Tour (3850216). 6.30 Racing (4356649), 10.00 The Lions on Tour (7307281). 12.00-1.00am Golf: Hapag Lloyd Shoot Out (7754427). SKY SPORTS 3 12.00noon Darts (28963465). 5.30 World Sports (41449007). 6.00 TT Races (77583842). 7.00. Golf: European Grand Pro. (36595736). 9.00 Golf: Kemper Open (39486910). 11.00 Inside

Australian Rules Football (1477026). 1.00 Golf (1370129).

the PGA Tour (85991213). 11.30-12.00midnight Survival of the Fittest (92183674). LIVE TV 6.00am Pin Money 7.00 Fashion 7.30 Sport 8.00 A Game of Two Scarves 8.30 Sham Rock Quiz 8.45 Looking for Love 9.00 Pet Squad 9.30 Revelations 10.00 Fashion 10.30 Agony 10.45 Looking for Love 11.00 Pet Squad 11.30 Trial TV 12.00 Fate and Fortune 12.30 Why Files? 1.00 Agony 2.00 Trial TV 2.30 Fashion 3.00 Agony 3.30 Fate and Fortune 4.00 Pin Money 4.30 Sport 5.00 Sham Rock Calz 5.30 Agony 6.00 Fashion 6.30 Sport 7.00 Pin Money 7.30 A Game of Two Scarves 8.00 Bushed 9.00 Handy Hunks; Sham Rock Quiz 9.30 Eva's Seventies Pop Show 10.00 Topless Darts; Sport.
10.30 Stand-Up 11.00 Topless
Darts; Fale and Fortune 11.30 Sex.
12.00 Handy Hunks; Erotica Exotica 12.30 Kiss TV 1.30 Shopping.
2.00 Sex 2.30 Erotica Exotica 3.00.
Stand Up 3.20 Sex 4.00 Erotica. Stand-Up 3.30 Sex 4.00 Entica Exotica 4.30 Pin Money 5.00 Sport



#### With Good Food, Good Living Is Free.

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With Good Food magazine you'll find Good Living free: 52-pages of ideas from wedding buffets to designs for children's clothes; from magical mosaics to bright ideas for lampshades.

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In this month's 8-page pull-out Food Capitals Guide, we tour Bologna, Modena & Parma, the home of bolognese ragu, balsamic vinegar and Parmesan cheese.

We've a selection of dishes drenched with the warm, ripe flavours of southern Italy, including everything you need for a mouthwatering Sicilian style buffet party.

You'll find part three of our Wine Lovers. Challenge; the latest recipes from BBC1's MasterChef '97; and we have planned a

5.30-6.00am Shooping

bring-your-own Sunday branch party. THE BY A TOTAL VALUE OF THE RESIDENCE OF THE STATE OF THE

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